

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 2019

**Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alfred R. Sunseri', is located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is stylized and fluid.

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not verbatim transcripts of the proceedings.

Audio files of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 763-5775

AGENDA
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
July 1, 2019 – 9:30 AM

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of June 6, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of July 1, 2019 Agenda
6. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
7. Enforcement Report, June 2019
8. Receive and Consider an Amendment to the Dredge Fill Material Program Notice of Intent Regarding Dredging Across the Center Line of Certain Water Bottoms of the State
9. Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Resident Game Hunting Season Regulations to Exempt Natural Deer Urine that have been Tested and Certified from the Prohibition on the Use of Deer Urine as an Attractant while Taking, Hunting or Scouting Wildlife
10. Receive an Annual Report from Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl on the Waterfowl Breeding Grounds
11. Receive a Report and Consider Resolution on the Impacts of Floodwaters on the Fishery Resources and Fisheries of Louisiana
12. Receive an Update on the 2019 Recreational Red Snapper Season
13. Receive a Summary Presentation on the June 2019 Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Meeting
14. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Establishing Closures of Certain Waters Associated with the 2020 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program
15. Set November 2019 Commission Meeting Date
16. Public Comments
17. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Monday, July 1, 2019

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on July 1, 2019, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room by **Chairman Sunseri**.

Commissioner McPherson led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Chairman Sunseri asked for the **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Al Sunseri
Chad Courville
Dusty Guidry
Joe McPherson
Bobby Samanie

Deputy Secretary Rob Shadoin was present for Secretary Jack Montoucet.

Commissioners Bill Hogan and Jerri Smitko were absent from the meeting.

Next, **Chairman Sunseri** called for **Adoption of June 6, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to adopt the June 6, 2019 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Samanie**. The motion passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Guidry made a motion for the **Approval of July 1, 2019 Agenda**, seconded by **Commissioner McPherson** and unanimously approved.

For **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month, **Commissioner Courville** stated he had the opportunity to view a new artificial reef project in the Gulf of Mexico at South Marsh Island 233 noting this was a compilation of effort and leadership by Secretary Montoucet with the Department staff, specifically Mr. Mike McDonough and his staff in making this project a reality. The project was an assemblage of partnerships between the Department, Chevron, DLS Energy, Road Rock Recycling and CCA Louisiana. Another dedication attended by **Commissioner Courville** was up in Saskatchewan Canada with Ducks Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited Canada honoring Mr. Johnny Lynch, his grandfather. He noted it was the best site he has ever been to in Canada noting the wetland densities were incredible. The **Commissioner** then added that the landscape looked totally different from his last visit 10

years ago seeing lots of no till farming which could potentially be good for ducks.

Commissioner Courville mentioned he was proud to be part of both events and thanked all involved for having him.

Deputy Secretary Shadoin stated Secretary Montoucet has recovered from his medical issue nicely and was at Rockefeller Refuge. On a personal note, Deputy Secretary Shadoin commented on the high caliber of men and women that work for the Department. He has seen their passion and loyalty to the people of Louisiana and appreciated their dedication. Deputy Secretary Shadoin thanked the Commissioner's for their leadership and guidance.

Major Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for June 2019** stating there were 17 boating incidents with 5 injuries and 2 fatalities this month. Also in June there were 1096 written citations, 611 written warnings and 18 public assists. News releases discussed included citing a Des Allemands man in Plaquemines Parish for illegal possession of undersized crabs and immature female crabs. All of the seized crabs were returned to the waters. A Port Barre man was charged with 2 counts of hunting deer during a closed season, hunting deer during illegal hours and violating outlaw quadruped night hunting regulations in St. Landry Parish. Then Enforcement agents cited 2 men in Lafourche Parish for failure to possess a recreational offshore landing permit, failure to keep saltwater fish intact, taking red snapper during a closed season and taking over the limit of red snapper. **Commissioner McPherson** asked what did the citation "other than wildlife and fisheries" in Region 5 refer to and Major Skena stated it could be violations that were not related to wildlife and fisheries. Col. Sammy Martin added that it could include drug cases and narcotics also.

Chairman Sunseri asked Mr. Kyle Balkum, Biologist Director, to come forward for the next agenda item, **Receive and Consider an Amendment to the Dredge Fill Material Program Notice of Intent Regarding Dredging Across the Center Line of Certain Water Bottoms of the State**. Mr. Balkum began stating the Notice of Intent on the Dredge Fill Program was presented at the January 2019 Commission Meeting which made the regulations agree with statutes and to formalize long standing practices into the regulation. The Notice of Intent was published in the February 2019 State Register and the public comment period ending April 4, 2019. During the public comment period, 1 comment was received from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). This comment created multiple discussions which leads to the proposed amendment. To relay the fears of CPRA, the Department decided to return the proposal to the way the existing regulation is which affects only 7 major waterbodies already listed in the regulation. (A copy of Mr. Balkum's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Courville asked if this regulation only applies to state water bottoms and Mr. Balkum answered yes. Then the **Commissioner** asked if the proposed regulation was to only allow a permittee to dredge up to a center line in the stream but now the existing regulation would allow the permittee to go across the whole stream and again he was told yes.

Commissioner Courville wondered if it would not be better to provide exceptions for coastal restoration projects and Mr. Balkum stated the Department would still be able to provide feedback if they are dredging beyond the center line through the Section 10 permit process.

Commissioner Courville felt it might be bad ecologically to stop halfway in a stream and added

that the permittee did not have to listen to the feedback. Mr. Balkum mentioned the permittee would have to apply for a license through the Dredge Fill Program and the Department would evaluate the process then. **Commissioner Courville** commented this would allow for the coastal restoration exception and still allow what the Department feels is good by stopping in the center of the stream. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner McPherson** made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation, seconded by **Commissioner Guidry** and passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Potpourri is made a part of the record.)

POTPOURRI

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Dredging (LAC 76:XIII.101)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission published a Notice of Intent to amend its rules regarding licenses to dredge fill materials from state water bottoms in the February 20, 2019 edition of the *Louisiana Register*. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to amend the original Notice of Intent to remove the prohibition of permitted dredge activity beyond the center line of certain streams. This amendment returns the proposed Notice of Intent language to the existing regulation.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIII. Fill Material

Chapter 1. Royalties

§101. License to dredge; classes of license; royalties

A. – F.2. ...

G. ~~1. — The extent of a single permitted site shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.~~

2 1. The extent of a single permitted site in the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, the Red River, the Pearl River (not including the West Pearl), the Calcasieu River below the saltwater barrier, the Ouachita/Black River south of the confluence of Bayou Bartholomew shall not exceed 1 linear mile and shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.

3 2. The extent of a single permitted site on all other streams except designated Natural and Scenic streams shall not exceed 1 linear half mile. Fill material, sand and gravel shall not be permitted to be removed from the water bottom of any designated Natural and Scenic River unless removal of such material is specifically allowed by statute.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:2011.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 19:1341 (October 1993), amended LR

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed amended rule will be held by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on August 27, 2019 at 9 a.m. in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman

Mr. Kenny Ribbeck, Wildlife Division Administrator, was the next presenter for the agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Resident Game Hunting Season Regulations to Exempt Natural Deer Urine that have been Tested and Certified from the Prohibition on the Use of Deer Urine as an Attractant while Taking, Hunting or Scouting Wildlife**. Mr. Ribbeck began stating the Legislative Oversight Committee overturned the urine ban that was approved by the Commission at their January 2019 Commission Meeting. Since then, the Governor has overturned the ruling by the Legislative Committee and directed the Commission to give careful consideration to providing an exception to the rule for any deer urine that has been subjected to the new testing. Mr. Ribbeck then read the Declaration of Emergency and asked the Commission for favorable consideration.

Commissioner Courville asked if the Department was limiting itself by just specifying Archery Trade Association (ATA) Deer Protection Program and wondered what would happen if a Federal program comes onboard that blesses the testing methodologies. He added that a statement in the Declaration of Emergency included giving the Secretary authority to expand on the Commission's behalf. Mr. Ribbeck commented that the ATA has adopted that these deer farms have to be in the USDA program. **Commissioner Courville** hoped the Federal Government would beef up their program nationwide to add legitimacy to the industry based testing. He noted he was interested in knowing when a legitimate federal program documents the testing of these products at a higher standard and possibly move up to that higher standard. Mr. Ribbeck stated staff has issues with the USDA program as well, but the real-time quaking induced conversion test was fairly new and that was what the Department was weighing heavily upon. **Commissioner Courville** thought it would be encumbered upon the hunter to make sure he or she have an ATA tested bottle in order to ensure compliance with this regulation to keep Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) out of Louisiana. The **Commissioner** then thanked the Governor for his actions in helping keep CWD out of this state. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the Department's regulation would be more stringent than the USDA or the ATA and

Mr. Ribbeck answered yes. The **Commissioner** wondered how the Department would disseminate this new regulation to the public since the new hunting pamphlets were already out. Mr. Ribbeck stated the new pamphlets have not been released as of yet. **Commissioner McPherson** inquired if there was an opportunity to add this new regulation into the hunting pamphlet and when they are distributed to the sporting goods store, let them know of this regulation so they know they should not sell the products previously sold. Assistant Secretary Randy Myers felt the deadline has passed to add any new information to the hunting pamphlets with the final draft already at the publishers. He added that there has been issues such as this in the past where a new regulation passed after the pamphlet was published and the staff utilized the Department's website in informing the public. **Commissioner McPherson** commented that was not the answer he was looking for adding no one reads the Department's website. Assistant Secretary Myers then mentioned a News Release media blast could be sent out hoping local newspapers would run the story. **Chairman Sunseri** felt the Department could try contacting the publisher and see if that could be added to which Assistant Secretary Myers stated they would certainly contact them. **Commissioner McPherson** asked staff to let the Commission know whether the new regulation will be added to the hunting pamphlets. Again, Assistant Secretary Myers stated the Department would send out a News Release, a media blast, or publish flyers and send them to distributors to provide to the public. **Commissioner McPherson** then asked when a hunter goes through stores such as Academy or Walmart, what do they see as far as importation of deer carcasses and Assistant Secretary Myers answered he saw the same flyer that the Department had posted around the office. **Commissioner McPherson** inquired as to how these flyers are distributed to sporting goods stores and Assistant Secretary Myers was not sure how that was handled but would find out and provide the Commission with that information. Going on, **Commissioner McPherson** stated there has to be some way for sporting goods stores to know about this regulation in order for the public to know that they should not use deer urine in the woods. Mr. Ribbeck noted staff was seeing more utilization of the hunting pamphlet on the Department's website and can post a special notice with the hunting pamphlet to make sure the public was aware of this new regulation. **Commissioner McPherson** asked that the Department report back to the Commission any ways they decide to limit the introduction of CWD to Louisiana. **Commissioner Courville** asked what words will actually be in the pamphlet as of right then and Assistant Secretary Myers felt the language not allowing the use of deer urine was stricken from the pamphlet. Mr. Ribbeck stated the initial language not allowing the use of deer urine was in the pamphlet but once the Legislative Committee overturned this, a call was made to the publisher prior to the deadline to pull that language out of the pamphlet. **Commissioner Courville** felt there was a remote chance to give the publisher notice on this new regulation and Mr. Ribbeck answered they would make the call to the publisher and see if it can be added. Hearing no further questions, **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to adopt the Declaration of Emergency and it was seconded by **Commissioner McPherson**. This action passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Exemption for Use of Tested and Certified Natural Deer Urine Attractants During the 2019-2020 Deer Hunting Season

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a terminal illness that affects deer populations and has been detected in free-ranging and captive deer herds in 26 states, but not in Louisiana. CWD has been detected in deer urine and will remain on the landscape for an indefinite period once introduced. Due to the continued threat of CWD entering Louisiana, precautionary steps have been taken to minimize introduction of the disease. New testing procedures have been made available to producers of deer urine that can detect the presence of CWD in urine-based products, thereby decreasing the risk of using tested urine based products within the state.

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953(H) which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to promulgate rules and regulations relative to hunting seasons and all rules and regulations pursuant thereto, R.S. 56:115 and 56:116 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons and establish associated rules and regulations for hunting deer, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule amending the Deer Hunting Season Regulations for the 2019-2020 season:

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season

§111. General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations

A. – D.12. ...

E. General Deer Hunting Regulations

1. – 10. ...

11. It is unlawful to use or possess scents or lures that contain natural deer urine or other bodily fluids while taking, attempting to take, attracting or scouting wildlife- except natural deer urine products produced by manufacturers or entities that are actively enrolled and participating in the Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program, which have been tested using real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC) and certified that no detectable levels of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) are present and are clearly labeled as such.

E. 12. – G.18. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:1279 (July 1999), amended LR 26:1494 (July 2000), LR 27:1049 (July 2001), LR 28:1603 (July 2002), LR 29:1124 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1522 (August 2003), amended LR 30:1495 (July 2004), LR 31:1611 (July 2005), LR 32:1251 (July 2006), LR 33:1382 (July 2007), LR 34:1429 (July 2008), LR 35:1264 (July 2009), LR 36:1566 (July 2010), LR 37:2190 (July 2011), LR 38:1732 (July 2012), LR 39:2292 (August 2013), LR 40:1540 (August 2014), LR 41:963 (May 2015), LR 42:1112 (July 2016), LR 43:1423 (July 2017), LR 44:1277 (July 2018), LR .

This Emergency Rule shall become effective September 1, 2019, and remain in effect for the duration of the 2019-2020 Deer Hunting Season. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Emergency Rule.

Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman

Chairman Sunseri announced the next agenda item, **Receive an Annual Report from Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl on the Waterfowl Breeding Grounds** would begin with Mr. Larry Reynolds, Waterfowl Biologist. Mr. Reynolds began stating the Commission allocated statutory funds for the securement and enhancement of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl to Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl for a 3-year period. Mr. John Davis with Delta Waterfowl and Mr. Dave Kustersky from Ducks Unlimited Canada would provide their 1-year progress reports.

Delta Waterfowl's report began with Mr. John Davis mentioning their first year work that Louisiana has partnered with was to secure breeding potential of important areas in Manitoba. He reminded everyone that wetland loss rates have not declined in Canada since the 1970's so the partnership and work was extremely important in a landscape that does not have the same tools as in the United States. The initial proposal of the approximately \$100,000 was to permanently secure 1225 acres through easement, restore 125 acres and enhance production through maintenance and addition of hen houses on this landscape. Delta Waterfowl has achieved over the first year 9 permanent conservation easements, protecting 1,555 acres of breeding habitat (460 acres in wetland basins and 1,096 acres in uplands). A map of south and west Manitoba showed the 3 Louisiana-funded easements and 6 other easements that were achieved through match funds. A map of the location of a total of 67.7 acres of wetlands restored by replacing the earthen plug was shown. Funding of hen houses provided for the installment of 80 additional houses and maintained 1,943 which benefited approximately 2,023 acres of wetlands. A map of the locations of the hen houses throughout south and west Manitoba was shown. Delta Waterfowl surpassed the 3-year objective for perpetual easements during the first year (1,555 compared with 1,225 for the objective); achieved 68 of the 125 acres of wetland restoration and 2,023 hen houses (3-year objective was 1,600). Overview of expenditures showed Louisiana's funds totaled \$94,601 with matching funds coming to \$624,047 for a total leveraged dollar of \$718,469. Mr. Davis reiterated the appreciation for the partnership on the landscapes that protect in order to slow the loss of wetlands.

Following the presentation, **Commissioner Courville** asked if the original proposal was to not use duck stamp money on hen houses, but rather use the matching funds and Mr. Davis stated that was correct. Then the **Commissioner** asked if the Department's money was used for wetland restoration and permanent securement to which Mr. Davis stated it was used on easements. **Commissioner Courville** stated, in the original proposal, it was noted Environment and Climate Change Canada was pending and asked for an update on this issue. Mr. Davis answered a large portion of an easement was donated and another portion Delta Waterfowl was able to purchase below market value which allowed for them to leverage greater than the initial 4:1 (Environment Canada came through as well as MHHC, NAWCA and a landowner donated an additional easement as a result of these communications). **Commissioner Courville** wondered if the Environment Canada money would be available for the next 2 years and Mr. Davis stated yes, they expect the 4:1 to continue. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if the landowners with these easements enjoy tax credits in Canada such as there are in the United States. Mr. Davis stated landowners do enjoy a tax incentive when they donate easements. As a point of clarification, Mr. Reynolds stated these are not duck stamp funds being used, Louisiana Duck Stamp Funds are legally required to be spent in the state of Louisiana.

Mr. Dave Kostersky with Ducks Unlimited Canada noted this partnership has been ongoing for over 50 years and expressed appreciation for being given the opportunity to provide this report. He began the presentation explaining the importance of Saskatchewan as it is center of the Prairie Pothole Region and waterfowl production (72% of North America's breeding ducks settle in the Prairie Pothole Region). From 50 years of surveys, Saskatchewan produces more birds than anywhere else when it's wet, but when it's dry, it will not produce much. Mr. Kostersky noted habitat loss continues adding that Saskatchewan was probably the furthest behind in protecting wetlands with other Provinces putting in new legislation to protect wetlands. Slides in the presentation included band recovery data (origin of ducks harvested in Louisiana from 1986-2012); the program description noting the challenges and solutions for wetland drainage, annual crops, overgrazing and development and priority migratory bird species in the Prairie Pothole Region. The funding for the first year was \$189,203.77 and with matching funds approximately \$560,000 was spent on habitat retention, \$5,000 was spent on wetland restoration, \$75,000 spent on upland restoration, and management of existing habitat dollars spent was \$116,533. Mr. Kostersky then compared the original proposal versus the adjusted for fiscal year 2019 (achievements included over 700 acres of easements, 327 acres of land purchases, 1106 acres of conservation agreements, completed 1111 acres of conservation forages, 9131 acres of winter wheat and 71,000 acres of habitat management). The total program expenditures were \$756,815 U.S. dollars which converts to \$938,451 Canadian dollars. The projects by Ducks Unlimited Canada usually fell within the target areas but if it fell outside that area, it was not as high of an investment. Mr. Kostersky then talked about 3 projects done during this first year – Crawford 2 Conservation Easement, Haduik 2 Conservation Easement and the Yuel Conservation Easement. Map from the past 90 days of precipitation did not look good, mainly dry but recent rains helped the landowners with their crops. Mr. Kostersky felt the May breeding surveys may show numbers are down with the Prairie Pothole Region being dry. He then again expressed appreciated for the partnership.

Commissioner Courville asked if the no till he saw in Saskatchewan expanded into Alberta and Manitoba and was there a government incentive. Mr. Kustersky answered yes it was happening in those provinces and it was being driven by economics. The reason Ducks Unlimited Canada pushed for the no till was soil conservation and the stubble from winter wheat was needed for it to catch snow. Then the **Commissioner** asked if the no till occurred after the land thaws and he was told yes.

(A copy of the Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited presentations are included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks came forward for the next agenda item, **Receive a Report and Consider Resolution on the Impacts of Floodwaters on the Fishery Resources and Fisheries of Louisiana**. Assistant Secretary Banks began noting an official letter from Governor Edwards was sent to the Federal Government requesting they declare a federal fisheries disaster in Louisiana due to the flooding. This was the first step in this long process with the Department documenting all of the impacts. He then stated that federal fisheries disasters are based on economic losses in the commercial sector, but funding can be used in a variety of sectors. Once the data was compiled, an official application to NOAA would be submitted for a federal fisheries disaster. High points that will support the Resolution was then discussed. Assistant Secretary Banks stated that the most recent sampling of oysters from the western Mississippi Sound, St. Bernard Parish, was showing 100% mortality on some of the reefs. With the Mississippi River being high since December, results in the Atchafalaya River were high too and this was causing problems on public reefs from the eastern side of Marsh Island (100% oyster mortality). Private leaseholders throughout the coast were having oyster mortalities as well, especially on the east side of Barataria Basin. There are lots of impacts to shrimp occurring as well, brown shrimp need 10 parts per thousand to grow and with this not occurring, catches are down. Statewide shrimp landings were down (30% for March and 61% for April) especially the Pontchartrain Basin was down 80% and Calcasieu Basin was down 86%. The areas that historically have the most brown shrimp landings, Barataria and Terrebonne, have shown 50% and 41% decreases respectively. Staff was seeing a lot less crabs in their biological samplings and the statewide landings were down from March through May compared to the 5-year average. Typical estuarine species are being seen in the finfish samplings but freshwater has impacted female speckled trout trying to find higher salinity waters to spawn. Finfish landings were down including black drum landings down 63% in March and 49% year to date. LA Creel landings overall statewide were higher than 2018 which was not a good year to compare due to the winter kill but down from 2015, 2016 and 2017 landings for speckled trout. Redfish catches were also down this year. Charter trips have been impacted due to decreased numbers of trips.

Commissioner Samanie stated he can testify that it was bad for the shrimp and knew the oyster industry was hurting also. The **Commissioner** then asked that an update on these impacts be provided at the next Commission Meeting when the shrimp and oyster seasons were to be set. Assistant Secretary Banks agreed to provide that update and added that the Department's website was also being updated on the impacts when the data was available. **Chairman Sunseri** suggested the Commissioners participate in any Department field surveys looking at the different fisheries and seeing what the Department was finding in order to help the Commission move forward. The **Chairman** then asked Assistant Secretary Banks to read the Therefore Be It

Resolved portion of the Resolution. **Commissioner Samanie** made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by **Commissioner McPherson** and approved with no opposition. **Commissioner McPherson** thanked Assistant Secretary Banks and his staff for putting this information together and assisting the Governor's Office with their letter. Assistant Secretary Banks added staff has been unbelievable by working continuously and specifically for oysters, sampling began in early March on the reefs and continues now with salinity being so low.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 1, 2019

- WHEREAS, the Mississippi River has been at a historic and unprecedented flood stage during 2019; and
- WHEREAS, today marks 248 days of the 2019 flood event and previous and expected rainfall events have and are expected to raise water levels statewide causing the 2019 flood event to surpass the 1973 event (225 days) as the longest flood fight in the Louisiana history; and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened the Bonnet Carré Spillway for 44 days from February 27 through April 11, 2019 and opened it again for a historic second time in one year on May 10, 2019 and it is currently diverting 142,000 cubic feet per second into Lake Pontchartrain; and
- WHEREAS, this flood event marks the fourth time in 5 years that the Bonnet Carré Spillway has been opened due to flood events and the first time it has opened in subsequent years and twice in the same year; and
- WHEREAS, additional heavy rainfall across the region has led to uncontrolled and unprecedented flow of freshwater into all estuaries and coastal waters of the State and may have lingering effects, leading to the decline of valuable seafood products from throughout the coast to catch, process and sell; and
- WHEREAS, biological monitoring by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Department) has indicated a notable reduction in the availability of crabs, shrimp, oysters and finfish associated with the 2019 flood event; and
- WHEREAS, the Department continues to monitor the impacts of the 2019 flood event on coastal aquatic life and the associated impacts to all sectors of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, including fishermen, docks, processors, marinas, etc.; and

WHEREAS, invasive plants and fish species are a current problem within Louisiana; floodwaters can disperse invasive species into areas that have not previously been affected, thereby altering biological assemblages, habitat and hydrology, and limiting recreational and commercial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, once the flood waters subside, additional impacts to freshwater fishery species may occur within the Atchafalaya Basin as well as to freshwater and estuarine areas outside of the Atchafalaya Basin, as low-oxygen water from flooded swamp areas and from dying algal blooms causes fish kills; and

WHEREAS, boating and fishing infrastructure (i.e., docks, piers, ramps, etc.) in freshwater and marine environments are impacted by floodwaters with damage ranging from sedimentation to complete destruction and future impacts from the 2019 flood event are expected, but the extent cannot be determined until water levels recede to normal conditions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges and requests the Department to continue its efforts to collect and analyze data regarding the impacts to fisheries in Louisiana as a result of the 2019 flood event, including analysis of fishery independent and dependent data to determine fishery disaster loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby supports the request submitted to NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce from the Louisiana Governor's Office to declare a fisheries disaster in Louisiana and to request the U.S. Congress to authorize and appropriate funds to recover fishery disaster loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department, the Governor and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman

The next agenda item, **Receive an Update on the 2019 Recreational Red Snapper Season** was presented by Mr. Jason Adriance, Finfish Biologist. Mr. Adriance stated the average weekly landings were about 9% with a total of 294,236 pounds of red snapper caught from 13 days out of 19 days fished so far. A graph showed current landing estimates and projected rates compared with the 2015-2018 average rate and 2018 average rate. Mr. Adriance then talked about electronic reporting totals comparing 2019 with 2018. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Chairman Sunseri announced the next agenda item was to **Receive a Summary Presentation on the June 2019 Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Meeting** and would be

presented by Mr. Chris Schieble, Biologist Manager. Mr. Schieble began stating this meeting took place in Destin, Florida the first week of June. Actions taken during the meeting included: appointing Department employee Nicole Smith to the Data Collection Committee for a 3-year term; the Council requested a presentation from NOAA Fisheries on potential solutions for IFQ data collected; SEFHEIR electronic monitoring has been delayed until early 2020; discussed and reviewed carryover of unharvested quotas; consideration to allow 2-day possession limit for federal for-hire trips for reef fish, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel if the trip lasts longer than 24 hours; a draft of Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Modifying Commercial IFQ Programs for eligible commercial fishermen was reviewed and the actions taken were discussed; final action was taken to reduce the greater amberjack commercial trip limit to 1,000 pounds gutted weight and when 75% of the annual catch target (ACT) was met, trip limits would be reduced to 250 pounds; recreational greater amberjack was modified with the fishing year running from August to October and any remaining would open in May the following year; red snapper ACT buffer for the commercial for-hire boats was reduced from 20% to 9% for the 2019 season only with final action to be taken at the August 2019 meeting; for the Amendment 51: Status Determination Criteria for Gray Snapper, the Gulf Council set the maximum sustainable yield and the maximum fishing mortality threshold at 26% of the spawning potential ratio with final action also to occur at the August 2019 Meeting; commercial crew size requirements on dual-permitted vessels restriction was addressed due to it impeding dual-permitted vessels from being used for catch share experience trips; the Gulf Council has requested consideration of a commercial minimum size limit for Almaco Jack; and the Council recommended NOAA Fisheries approve the shrimp bycatch exempted fishing permit. Then Mr. Schieble announced the next Gulf Council Meeting would be held in New Orleans August 12-15, 2019 with the option of a webinar if unable to attend in person. (A copy of Mr. Schieble's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Commissioner Samanie asked if the 2-day possession limit would allow the federal for-hires to double their limit if they do not fish the next day and Mr. Schieble stated those boats cannot come back to port until after 24 hours have passed. **Commissioner Courville** asked, with the postponement of the carryover of unharvested quota, would there be any negative impacts on state management of red snapper. Mr. Schieble stated, mathematically, it would be a small amount of fish to be redistributed gulfwide if there was a carryover but it does not impact the penalty if a state fishes over their quota. Then the **Commissioner** felt it may force the state to go over by a pound instead of leaving any quota that would be redistributed to the other states the following year. Mr. Schieble commented that any overages would have to be paid back the next year. Assistant Secretary Banks explained if every state did not reach their quota, that available quota would lead to a Gulfwide increase that would be redistributed based on the allocation. **Commissioner Courville** knew that, at some point, the Commission, Secretary Montoucet and Assistant Secretary Banks would have to make a decision on a red snapper season closure recommendation and some fishermen may view going over the quota as a negative. The **Commissioner** however thought it might be best under the current frameworks to go over by a small amount since any quota not harvested could not be added to the next year's quota, it gets redistributed. Assistant Secretary Banks felt going over the quota was not a negative but understood **Commissioner Courville's** point of view on the total number of fish. **Commissioner Courville** stated all of this needed to be kept in perspective in order to have the best season for the recreational angler. The **Commissioner** thanked Mr. Schieble, Mr. Ed

Swindell and Mr. J.D. Dugas for fighting for recreational amberjack fishermen and encouraged they continue doing the great job they have been doing with the thought there may be a need for state management for this fish. **Commissioner Courville** asked if this state was on the same trajectory with mangrove snapper as with red snapper and Mr. Schieble stated with the changes, he felt it would be good to see the next stock assessment in order to see if what people thought was happening actually was compared to what was shown in the stock assessment.

Commissioner Courville hoped to never see the catch share experience in Louisiana as he felt it might be the biggest loophole in federal fish management.

Mr. Peyton Cagle, Crustacean Biologist, came forward for the agenda item to **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent Establishing Closures of Certain Waters Associated with the 2020 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program**. Mr. Cagle first went through the 2019 results showing pictures of those events; a map of the actual 5 closure areas; and the number of traps removed (Barataria Basin – 218, western Pontchartrain – over 600, Terrebonne Parish – over 500, a second Pontchartrain closure – over 2,500 and Calcasieu area, mainly Black Bayou – 164 traps). **Commissioner Samanie** asked if the 2500 traps taken were from Plaquemines Parish or Pontchartrain and Mr. Cagle stated they were taken from the Pontchartrain Basin.

Commissioner Courville asked if the closures can occur on public or private waters and Mr. Cagle stated traps cannot be removed from private areas unless they receive consent. Going on, Mr. Cagle stated over 4,000 traps were removed in 2019 and then explained average results from 2004-2019. Before describing the 2020 proposed cleanup areas, Mr. Cagle explained the Commission's authority and the authorization dates. The first proposed area will be in the Pontchartrain Basin from February 3, 2020 through February 16, 2020 (the eastern portion of Lake Pontchartrain). Next proposed area will be in the Barataria Basin from February 3, 2020 through February 16, 2020. For the proposed Calcasieu Basin area, a short closure would occur from February 10, 2020 through February 19, 2020. The Vermilion Basin proposed area would be from February 10, 2020 through February 23, 2020. Another Pontchartrain Basin proposed area, partnering with the Lake Pontchartrain Foundation, was planned for March 2, 2020 through March 15, 2020. The last proposed closure was for Terrebonne Basin from March 2, 2020 through March 15, 2020. Things to remember for this proposed action: traps remaining in the proposed closed waters will be considered abandoned; only the Department or its designees will be allowed to remove the traps; traps can only be removed between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset; traps must be brought to designated sites within the closure area; and traps removed from a closure area cannot be possessed outside the closure area. (A copy of Mr. Cagle's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Hearing no questions, **Chairman Sunseri** asked the Commission's pleasure on this Notice of Intent. **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent, seconded by **Commissioner Guidry** and unanimously approved.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**Office of Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

**Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps
(LAC 76:VII.367)**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:332(N), that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to amend LAC 76:VII.367 to temporarily close a portion of state inside waters to the use of crab traps in order to facilitate the removal of abandoned crab traps in these waters.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has amended the provisions in LAC 76:VII.367 governing the locations of temporary crab trap closures to address problems in portions of state waters resulting from large numbers of abandoned and derelict crab traps (*Louisiana Register, Volume 30, Number 1; Volume 31, Number 1; Volume 32, Number 2; Volume 33, Number 1; Volume 34, Number 1; Volume 36, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 12; Volume 40, Number 1; Volume 41, Number 1; Volume 42, Number 1; Volume 42, Number 12; Volume 44, Number 1; Volume 45, Number 2*). The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took action on July 1, 2019 to describe a new portion of state waters to be temporarily closed to the use of crab traps for the purpose of conducting a crab trap cleanup.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 3, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. February 16, 2020 within portions of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany Parishes as described below:

1. from a point originating from the intersection of the north bound lane of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge and the southern shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain (30 degrees 01 minutes 13.054 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 09 minutes 15.165 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the southern shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain to Chef Menteur Pass (30 degrees 05 minutes 49.10 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 49 minutes 09.54 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shoreline of Chef Menteur Pass to its intersection with U.S. Highway 90 at 30 degrees 03 minutes 59.99 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 48 minutes 19.04 seconds west longitude; thence easterly following the east bound lane of U.S. Highway 90 to its intersection with the north shore of Rigolets Pass (30 degrees 10 minutes 32.08 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 43 minutes 45.66 seconds west longitude); thence westerly

following the north shore of Rigolets Pass to its opening at the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain; thence westerly following the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain to its intersection with the north bound lane of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge; thence southerly along the north bound lane of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge to the origin.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 3, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. February 16, 2020 within portions of Jefferson, Lafourche, and Plaquemines Parishes as described below:

1. from a point originating at the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the northern shore of Hero Canal (29 degrees 48 minutes 12.73 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 04 minutes 09.21 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to a point along the western shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at 29 degrees 48 minutes 15.14 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 04 minutes 18.67 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to a point opposite the western shore of Bayou Perot (29 degrees 40 minutes 56.67 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 11 minutes 36.79 seconds west longitude); thence easterly to a point on the western shore of Bayou Perot at 29 degrees 40 minutes 50.66 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 11 minutes 25.48 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Perot to Little Lake; thence southerly along the western shore of Little Lake to 29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 12 minutes 01.497 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to the eastern shore of Wilkinson Canal (29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 56 minutes 58.47 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shore of Wilkinson Canal to its termination; thence northerly to the western shore of the Mississippi River at 29 degrees 38 minutes 24.94 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 57 minutes 1.21 seconds west longitude; thence northerly along the western shore of the Mississippi River to a point easterly of the northern shoreline of Hero Canal (29 degrees 47 minutes 9.60 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 01 minutes 17.77 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to the northern shore of Hero Canal; thence westerly along the northern shore of Hero Canal to the origin.

C. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 10-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 10, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. February 19, 2020 within portions of Cameron Parish as described below:

1. from a point originating on the eastern shore of Calcasieu Lake at 29 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 14 minutes 52.30 seconds west longitude; thence southerly following the eastern and southern shore of Calcasieu Lake to its intersection with the eastern shore of East Pass at 29 degrees 50 minutes 21.904 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 19 minutes 40.934 seconds west longitude; thence southerly following the eastern shore of East Pass to its intersection with the Calcasieu Ship Channel; then southerly along the eastern shore of the Calcasieu Ship Channel to a point located just north of the Cameron Ferry (29 degrees 48 minutes 14.45 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 20 minutes 43.75 seconds west longitude); thence west along 29 degrees 48 minutes 14.45 seconds north latitude to a point located north of the Cameron Ferry on the western shore of the Calcasieu Ship Channel (29 degrees 48 minutes 14.45 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 20 minutes 56.436 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western shore of the Calcasieu Ship Channel to a point at 29 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north

latitude, 93 degrees 20 minutes 25.77 seconds west longitude; thence west along 29 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude to the origin.

D. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 10, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. February 23, 2020 within portions of Iberia and Vermilion Parishes as described below:

1. from a point originating from the intersection of the Acadiana Navigational Channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (29 degrees 50 minutes 33.793 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 50 minutes 26.43 seconds west longitude); thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 20 (29 degrees 36 minutes 12.551 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 18.487 seconds west longitude) near the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass; thence westerly to the Green Light Channel Marker number 21 (29 degrees 36 minutes 44.541 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 00 minutes 21.808 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to Southwest Point; thence westerly along the southern shore of Vermilion Bay to the eastern shore of Hell Hole; thence southerly along the shore of Hell Hole to its intersection with Hell Hole Bayou; thence westerly to the western shore of Hell Hole; thence northerly along the western shore of Hell Hole to its intersection with the southwestern shore of Vermilion Bay; thence northerly along the southwestern shore of Vermilion Bay to Redfish Point; thence westerly along the shore of Vermilion Bay to its intersection with Freshwater Bayou Canal just past Coles Bayou (29 degrees 44 minutes 54.065 seconds north latitude, 92 degrees 13 minutes 02.277 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal to its intersection with the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; thence easterly along the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the origin.

E. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. March 2, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. March 15, 2020 within portions of Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany Parishes as described below:

1. from a point originating at the intersection of the Mississippi/Louisiana state line and U.S. Highway 90 (30 degrees 14 minutes 20.816 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 36 minutes 53.218 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along U.S. Highway 90 to its intersection with the western shore of Chef Menteur Pass; thence southerly on the western shore of Chef Menteur Pass to its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; thence westerly on the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to its intersection with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lake Borgne Surge Barrier (30 degrees 00 minutes 53.88 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 54 minutes 06.13 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lake Borgne Surge Barrier to the western shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (29 degrees 59 minutes 39.183 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 54 minutes 29.09 seconds west longitude), thence southerly along the western shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to its intersection with the western shore of the Shell Beach Canal; thence southerly along the western shore of the Shell Beach Canal to a point at 29 degrees 51 minutes 13.28 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 47.54 seconds west longitude; thence easterly to a point on the eastern shore of the Shell Beach Canal (29 degrees 51 minutes 12.82 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 40 minutes 45.80 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shore of the Shell Beach

Canal to its intersection with the western shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; thence northerly to a point located on the eastern shore of the Shell Beach Cut; thence northerly along the eastern shore of the Shell Beach Cut to a point located at its intersection with the southern shore of Lake Borgne; thence easterly and northerly along the south and east shore of Lake Borgne to Malhereux Point (30 degrees 04 minutes 41.392 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 29 minutes 02.000 seconds west longitude); thence northerly to a point on the Mississippi/Louisiana state line (30 degrees 09 minutes 45.844 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 29 minutes 02.000 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the origin.

F. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. March 2, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. March 15, 2020 within portions of Terrebonne Parish as described below:

1. from a point originating along the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes (29 degrees 25 minutes 59.26 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 27 minutes 31.39 seconds west longitude) near the intersection of Lower U.S. Highway 665 and Island Road; thence westerly to the south bound lane of Island Road; thence southerly along the south bound lane of Island Road to its intersection with the western boundary of the Pointe Aux Chenes Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area (29 degrees 24 minutes 25.774 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 29 minutes 28.429 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western boundary of the Pointe Aux Chenes Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area to its intersection with the southern boundary of the Montegut Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area (29 degrees 25 minutes 20.378 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 29 minutes 58.29 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the southern boundary of the Montegut Unit of the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area to its southwestern most point located on the eastern shore of the Humble Canal (29 degrees 25 minutes 51.125 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 33 minutes 31.885 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the eastern shore of the Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne (29 degrees 26 minutes 17.702 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 34 minutes 00.193 seconds west longitude); thence westerly to a point located on the western shore of Bayou Terrebonne at 29 degrees 26 minutes 17.66 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 34 minutes 02.751 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal (29 degrees 22 minutes 07.156 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 36 minutes 05.437 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shore of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou (29 degrees 22 minutes 52.495 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 37 minutes 14.931 seconds west longitude); thence southerly along the western shore of Bayou Little Caillou to 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 38 minutes 41.401 seconds west longitude; thence east along 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes (29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 23 minutes 00.507 seconds west longitude); thence northerly along the western shore of Bayou Pointe Aux Chenes to the origin.

~~A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14 day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. February 14, 2019 within portions of Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes as described below:~~

—— From a point originating on the western boundary of the Barataria Waterway (29 degrees 34 minutes 54.52 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 3 minutes 41.24 seconds west longitude); thence easterly to the intersection of Highway 23 and Reddick Lane (29 degrees 34 minutes 53.36 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 49 minutes 38.29 seconds west longitude); thence southerly on Highway 23 to the intersection of Caroline Avenue and Highway 23; thence southwesterly to a point where Little Pass and the southern bank of the Freeport Sulphur Canal intersect (29 degrees 27 minutes 19.15 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 42 minutes 25.96 seconds west longitude); thence southwesterly following the southern bank of the Freeport Sulphur Canal to a point located at 29 degrees 23 minutes 51.08 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 46 minutes 30.00 seconds west longitude; thence westerly to a point located on the western shore of the Barataria Waterway at 29 degrees 24 minutes 17.19 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 59 minutes 24.00 seconds west longitude; thence northerly following the western shore of the Barataria Waterway and terminating at the origin.

B. — The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 10 day period from 12:00 a.m. February 1, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. February 10, 2019 within Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes as described below:

—— From a point of origin where I 55 intersects Pass Manchac (30 degrees 17 minutes 7.08 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 24 minutes 6.07 seconds west longitude); thence easterly following the northern bank of Pass Manchac to the point where Pass Manchac exits at the northwest bank of Lake Pontchartrain; thence northerly following the bank of Lake Pontchartrain to the south bound lane of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (30 degrees 21 minutes 51.75 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 5 minutes 38.59 seconds west longitude); thence southerly to a point where the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway crosses the Lakefront Trail located at 30 degrees 1 minutes 10.06 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 9 minutes 17.28 seconds west longitude; thence westerly following the Lakefront Trail along the south bank of Lake Pontchartrain until it intersects the Duncan Canal (30 degrees 2 minutes 50.56 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 16 minutes 45.21 seconds west longitude); thence westerly past the Duncan Canal continuing to follow the south bank of Lake Pontchartrain to a point where I 10 passes over the southern bank of Lake Pontchartrain (30 degrees 3 minutes 21.43 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 22 minutes 17.79 seconds west longitude); thence westerly on I 10 to the intersection of I 55, thence northerly on I 55 and terminating at the origin.

C. — The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14 day period from 12:00 a.m. February 15, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. February 28, 2019 within portions of Terrebonne Parish as described below:

—— From a point originating at the intersection of the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and the northern shoreline of Falgout Canal (29 degrees 24 minutes 44.098 seconds north latitude, 90 degrees 46 minutes 58.47 seconds west longitude); thence westerly along the northern shoreline of Falgout Canal to Lake de Cade; thence westerly along the northern shoreline of Lake de Cade to the mouth of Bayou de Cade; thence southwesterly along the northern shoreline of Bayou de Cade to Lost Lake; thence westerly along the northern shoreline of Lost Lake to the mouth of Rice Bayou; thence southerly along the western shoreline of Rice Bayou to Blue Hammock Bayou; thence westerly along the northern shore of Blue Hammock Bayou to Four

~~League Bay; thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Four League Bay to the mouth of Oyster Bayou; thence southerly along the eastern shoreline of Oyster Bayou to a point along the inside-outside shrimp line as defined in LAC 76:VII.370(29 degrees 13 minutes 12.001 seconds north latitude, 91 degrees 07 minutes 48.002 seconds west longitude); thence easterly along the inside-outside shrimp line to the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou; thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Grand Caillou to 29 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds north latitude; thence westerly across Bayou Grand Caillou to the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline canal; thence westerly along the northern shoreline of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline canal to the eastern shore of Bayou Dularge; thence northerly along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Dularge and terminating at its origin.~~

D. ~~The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 14-day period from 12:00 a.m. February 15, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. February 28, 2019 within Plaquemines parish as described below:~~

~~From a point originating along the eastern shoreline of the Mississippi River at 29 degrees 46 minutes 11.835 seconds north latitude; thence easterly along 29 degrees 46 minutes 11.835 seconds north latitude to its intersection with the eastern bank of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs at 29 degrees 46 minutes 11.835 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 47 minutes 20.53 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along the eastern bank of Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs to 29 degrees 41 minutes 15.19 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 38 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along 89 degrees 38 minutes 00 seconds west longitude to 29 degrees 34 minutes 12 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 38 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; thence westerly along 29 degrees 34 minutes 12 seconds north latitude to 29 degrees 34 minutes 12.00 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 42 minutes 36 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along 89 degrees 42 minutes 36 seconds west longitude to its intersection with the eastern bank of the Mississippi River at 29 degrees 30 minutes 51.57 seconds north latitude, 89 degrees 42 minutes 36.24 seconds west longitude; thence northerly along the eastern bank of the Mississippi River to its point of origin.~~

E. ~~The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 10-day period from 12:00 a.m. March 13, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. March 22, 2019 within Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes as described below:~~

~~From a point originating at the Louisiana/Texas state line at 29 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 48 minutes 29.67 seconds west longitude; thence northerly along the Louisiana/Texas state line to its intersection with the southernmost east bound lane on Interstate 10; thence northeasterly along the southernmost east bound lane on Interstate 10 to its intersection at 30 degrees 11 minutes 15.16 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 33 minutes 18 seconds west longitude; thence southerly along 93 degrees 33 minutes 18 seconds west longitude to its intersection at 29 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds north latitude, 93 degrees 33 minutes 18.00 seconds west longitude; thence westerly along 29 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds north latitude to its point of origin.~~

F G. All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period shall be considered abandoned. Crab trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property; authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual

landowners. Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel or its designees are authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps within the closed area. All traps removed during a closed area are to be brought to the designated disposal area. No person removing crab traps from the designated closed areas during the closure periods shall possess these traps outside of the closed area. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate disposal sites.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332(N).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 30:101 (January 2004), amended LR 31:108 (January 2005), LR 32:266 (February 2006), LR 33:113 (January 2007), LR 34:97 (January 2008), LR 36:77 (January, 2010), LR 38:146 (January 2012), LR 38:3250 (December 2012), LR 40:96 (January 2014), LR 41:155 (January 2015), LR 42:70 (January 2016), amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 42:2196 (December 2016), LR 44:100 (January 2018), LR 45:78 (January 2019), repromulgated LR 45:282 (February 2019), LR 45:

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule to Mr. Peyton Cagle, Marine Fisheries Biologist DCL-B, Marine Fisheries Section, 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70611, or via email to pcagle@wlf.la.gov prior to September 16, 2019.

Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman

Chairman Sunseri then announced the next agenda item would be to **Set November 2019 Commission Meeting Date**. The Commissioners, by motion from **Commissioner Courville** and seconded by **Commissioner Samanie** agreed to hold their November 2019 meeting on November 7, beginning at 9:30 AM in Baton Rouge.

Chairman Sunseri asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

Hearing no further comments, **Commissioner Courville** made a motion for **Adjournment** and this was unanimously approved.

APPENDICES



Dredge Fill Material Amendment to the Notice of Intent

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Kyle F. Balkum | July 1, 2019

TIMELINE

January 8th – Commission adopted Dredge Fill Material NOI

February – NOI Published in Louisiana Register

April 4th – Public Comment period ended.

1 comment received. Provided by Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



January NOI

- G. 1. The extent of a single permitted site shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.
- 2. The extent of a single permitted site in the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, the Red River, the Pearl River (not including the West Pearl), the Calcasieu River below the saltwater barrier, the Ouachita/Black River south of the confluence of Bayou Bartholomew shall not exceed 1 linear mile ~~and shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.~~



Amended NOI

- G. ~~1.~~ ~~The extent of a single permitted site shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.~~
- ~~2.~~1. The extent of a single permitted site in the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, the Red River, the Pearl River (not including the West Pearl), the Calcasieu River below the saltwater barrier, the Ouachita/Black River south of the confluence of Bayou Bartholomew shall not exceed 1 linear mile and shall not extend across the geometric center line of the stream.



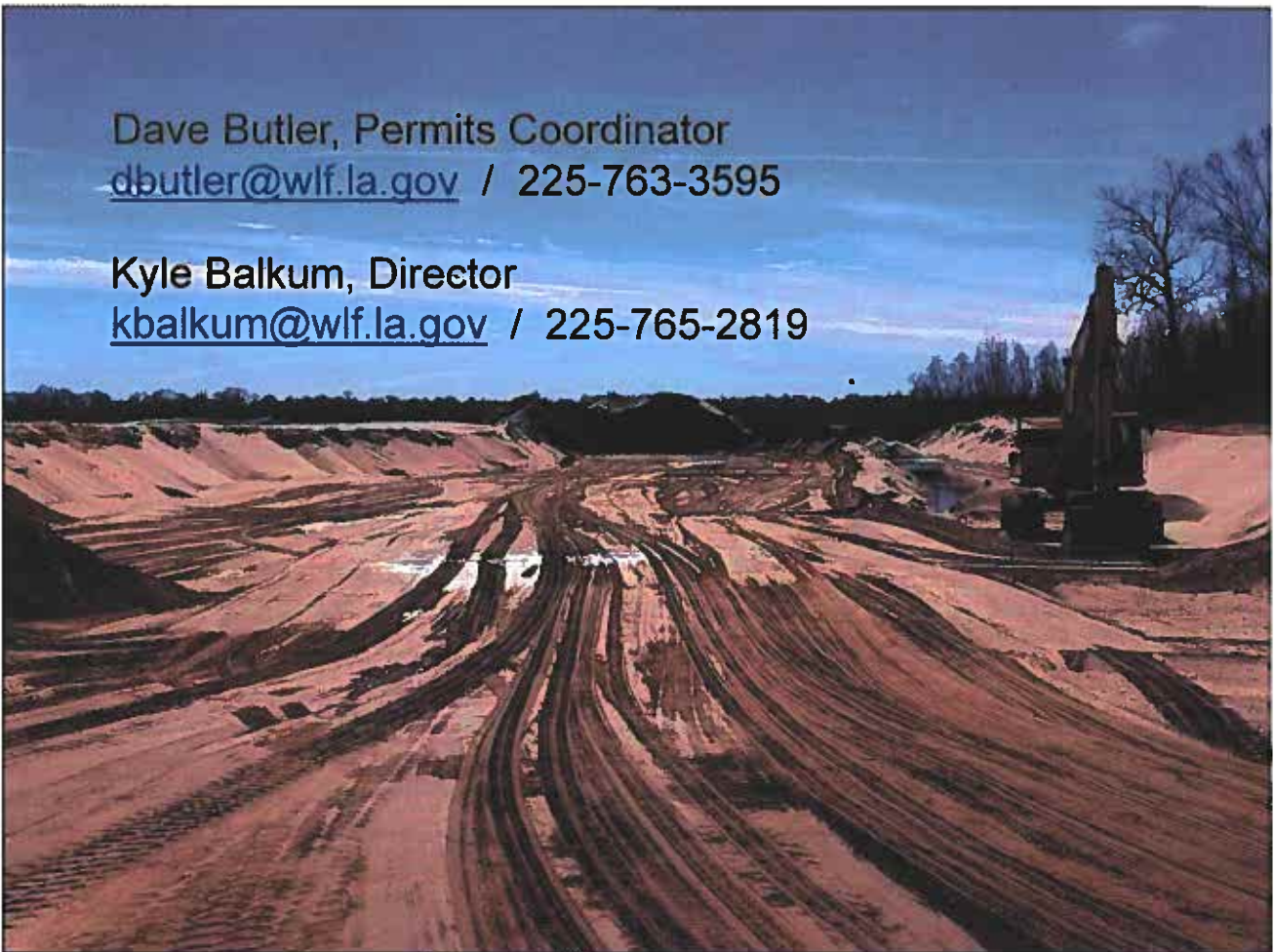
In Summary

The amendment reverts back to the existing regulation. Therefore, no change from current regulations.



Dave Butler, Permits Coordinator
dbutler@wlf.la.gov / 225-763-3595

Kyle Balkum, Director
kbalkum@wlf.la.gov / 225-765-2819





The Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Securement Project

Annual Report for FY19

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



Overview

Proposal Review

Accomplishments

Expenditures

Project Examples



Project Initiatives

(3-yr objectives)

Permanent Habitat Protection (1,225 acres)

- Permanent conservation easements
- Established on privately-owned lands

Wetland Restoration (125 acres)

- Licenses obtained for restoration works
- Term (or permanent) securement of habitat

Nest Success Enhancement (1,600 Hen Houses)

- Annual maintenance on existing structures
- Installation of new structures (Yr 1)



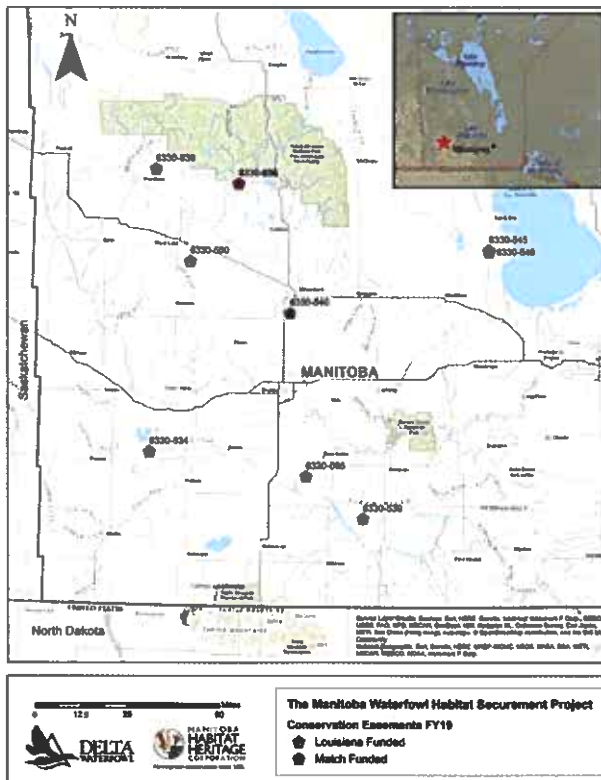
Conservation Easements

Protecting the existing



Permanent Protection

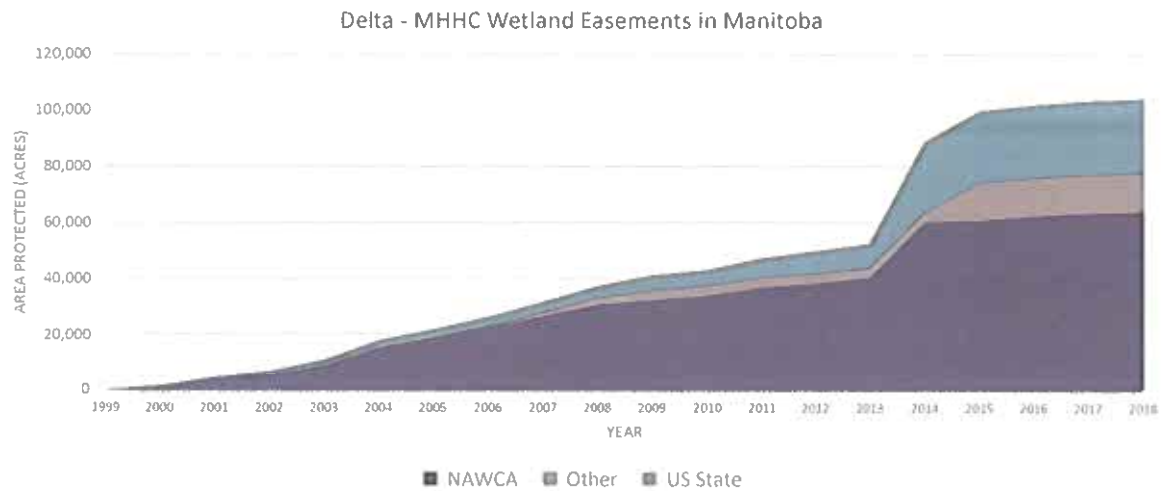
- 9 conservation easements completed
- 1,555 acres of breeding habitat protected
- 460 acres of wetlands
- 1,096 acres of uplands



Conservation Easements

- 3 Louisiana-funded CEs
 - Wetlands: 103.9 acres
 - Uplands: 118.0 acres
 - Total: 221.9 acres
- 6 match-funded CEs
 - Wetlands: 355.2 acres
 - Uplands: 978.2 acres
 - Total: 1,333.4 acres

Cumulative conservation easements



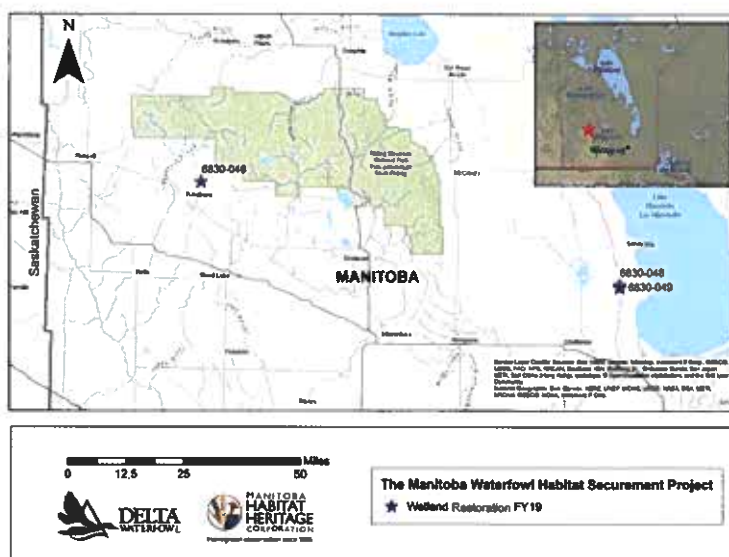
Wetland Restoration

Re-creating lost habitat

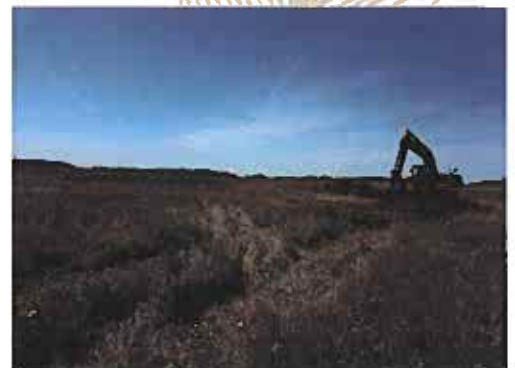


Wetland Restoration

- 67.7 acres restored
- 3 landowners (2 projects)
- Habitat permanently protected with easements



Wetland Restoration Locations



Marofke / MWF Restoration

- 63.5 acres
- 2 landowners
- Single earthen plug



Earthen plugs were constructed with clay and compacted with a track-hoe. Plug dimensions are site specific to reduce erosion. Top soil removed during plug construction is replaced, and plugs are seeded with a blended grass mix.

Marofke and Manitoba Wildlife Federation Habitat Foundation Restoration Project Summary		
Project Description	Date of Construction	Wetland Area Restored
1 earthen plug constructed	October 25th, 2018	63.5 ac
Total acreage of each wetland is calculated using full swamp level (78) + 5 inches. A survey of the site topography was completed to determine plug heights and wetland area to be restored.		
A Conservation Agreement (perpetual term) was signed with Jerry and Cheryl Marofke in December, 2018 and Manitoba Wildlife Federation Habitat Foundation in March, 2019 that includes the restoration project depicted in this report.		
Scale: 1:6,000 Orthophotography date: 2008-2010		23 Feb-19 Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

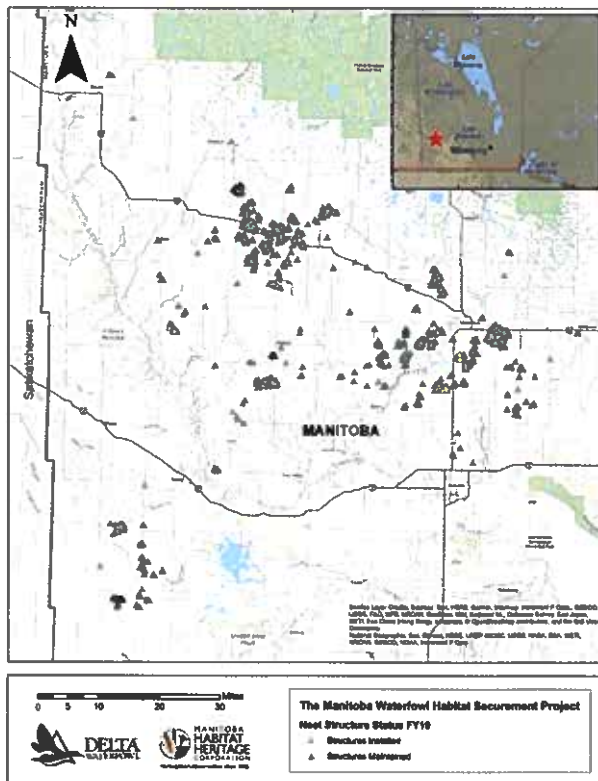
Hen Houses

Mallard production at its best



Hen Houses

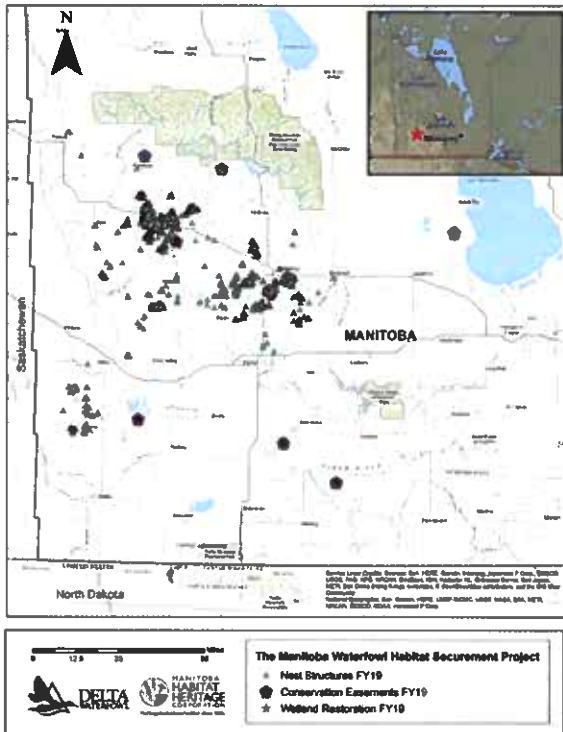
- Installed 80
- Maintained 1,943
- Benefit to ~2,023 acres of wetlands



Hen House Locations



Accomplishment Summary



Initiative	3yr Objective	1yr Progress	Remaining
Conservation Easements	1,225	1,555	0%
Wetland Restoration	125	68	45%
Hen House*	1,600	2,023	~66%

*Hen House maintenance is an annual acreage (i.e. 1,600 x 3 yrs)



Project Expenditures

Leveraging Hunter Contributions



Year 1 Expenditures (Actuals)

Initiative	LA Funds	Match Funds	Total
Conservation Easements	\$ 94,601.88	\$ 493,108.30	\$ 587,710.18
Wetland Restoration	\$ -	\$ 79,017.18	\$ 79,017.18
Hen House	\$ -	\$ 51,921.74	\$ 51,921.74
Total	\$ 94,601.88	\$ 624,047.22	\$ 718,469.10

Values shown in US Dollars

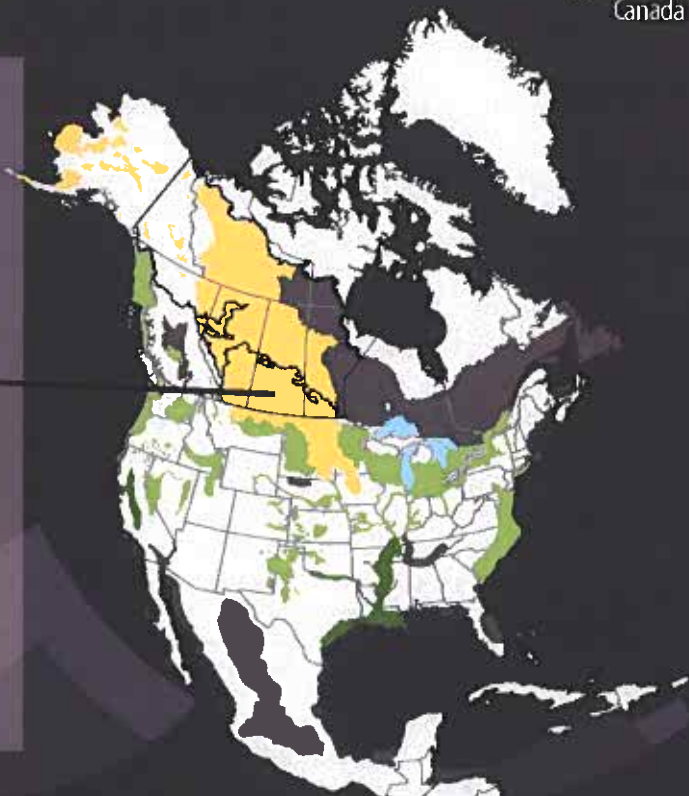
Ducks Unlimited & Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Partnership



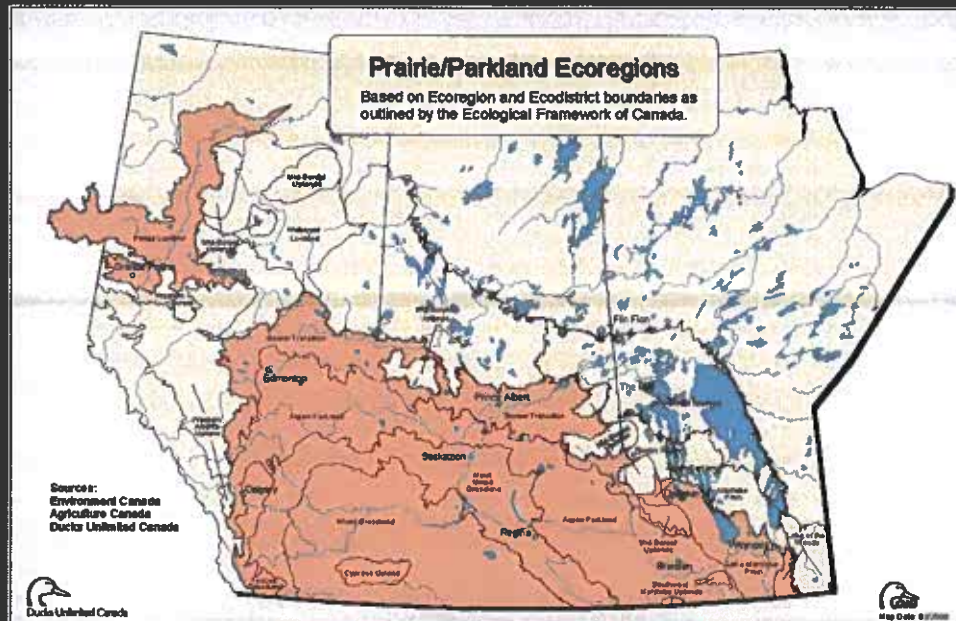
Canadian Prairie Pothole - Saskatchewan

High Priority Regions

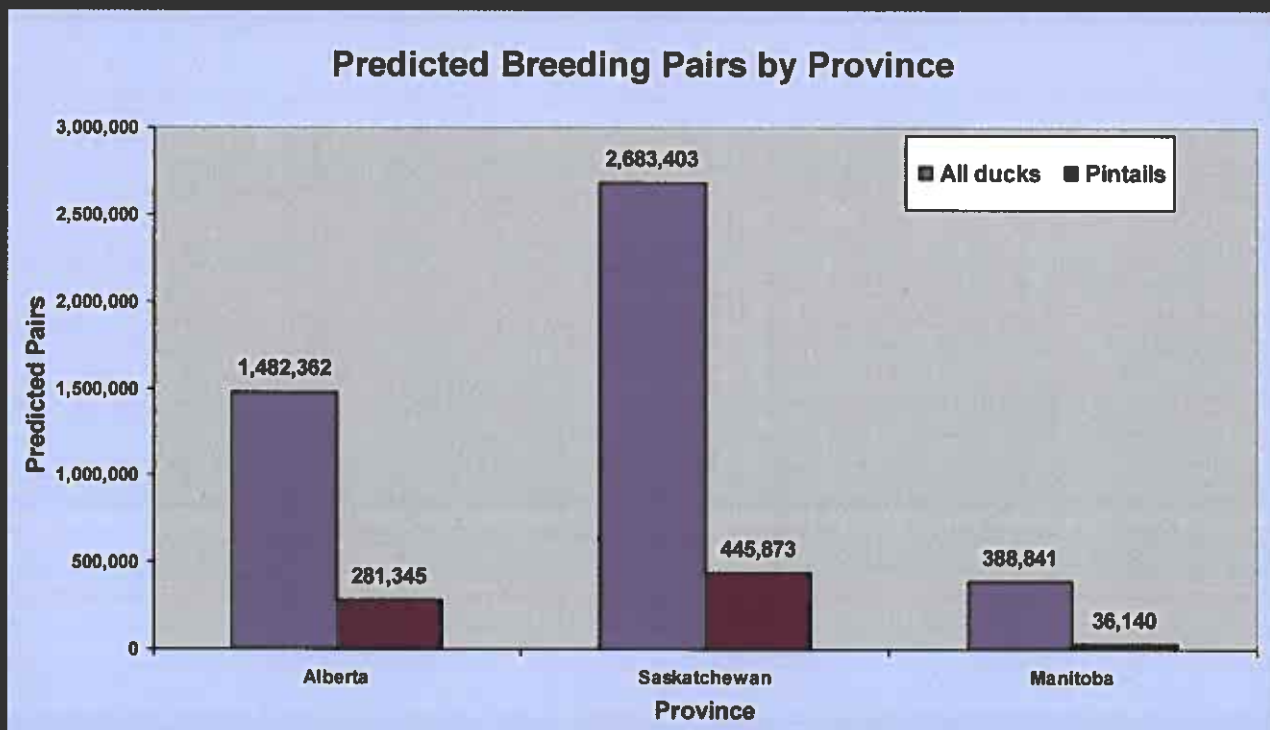
- Proposed activities will take place in Ducks Unlimited's highest priority area:
 - The Canadian Prairie Pothole Region (PPR)
- They help to achieve goals of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture 2013-2020 Implementation Plan.
- They support:
 - An average of 72% of North America's breeding ducks settle in the PPR and Western Boreal
 - Production, molting and staging of other NAWMP priority species



Canadian Prairie Pothole Region

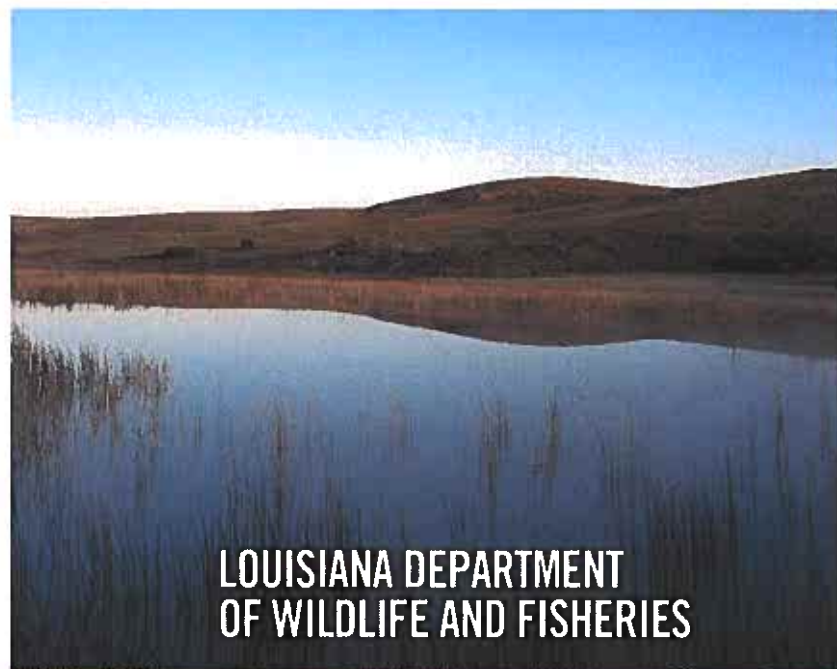


On average just over 50% of the continents ducks breed here



On average over 60% of Canada's PPR ducks breed in Saskatchewan

Habitat Loss



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

SECURING A LEGACY OF HABITAT CONSERVATION IN SASKATCHEWAN WITH
ENDURING BENEFITS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY



YOUR CONSERVATION REPORT

APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019 CONSERVATION REPORT

Submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.


Ducks Unlimited
Canada

The Prairie Pothole Region (PPR)

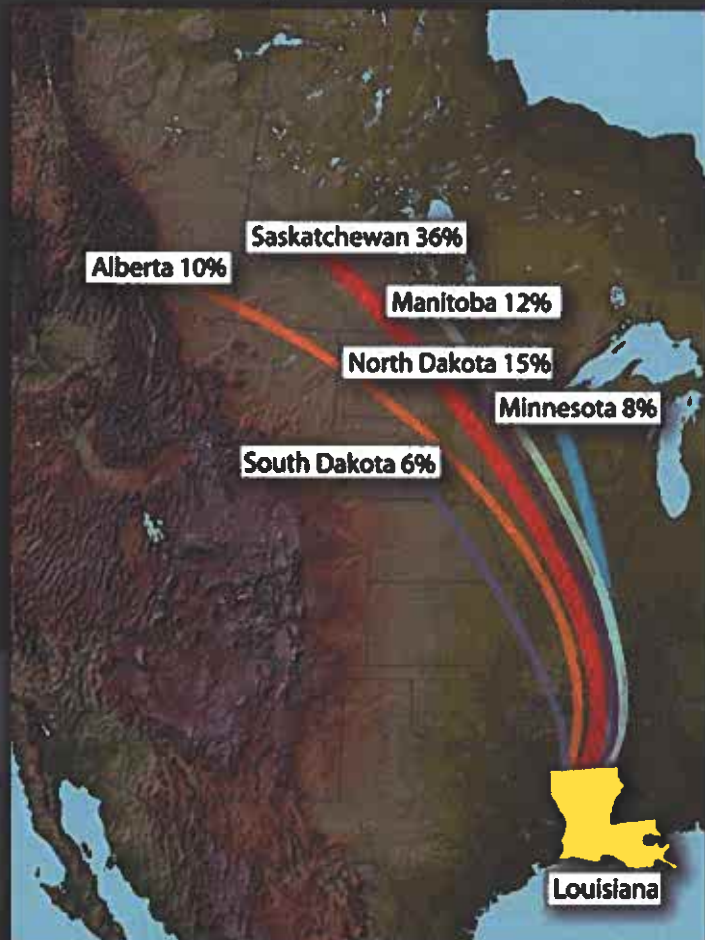
- Population objectives in the Canadian PPR account for a high proportion of NAWMP continental objectives:
 - ~46% of Mallard and Pintail objectives
 - Majority of objectives for Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead and Canvasback



BAND RECOVERIES

Origin of ducks
harvested in
Louisiana from
1986-2012.

*Recent mallard harvest
derivation analysis established
that 69% of mallards harvested
in Louisiana come from the
Canadian PPR*



Program Description



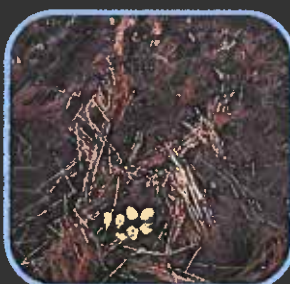
THE CHALLENGES

Wetland Drainage



Secure & Enhance by
Installing Ditch Plugs

Annual Crops



Secure & Enhance
by Converting to
Perennial Cover

Overgrazing



Promote Winter
Wheat through
Stewardship

Development



Promote Best Mgmt
Practices through
Stewardship

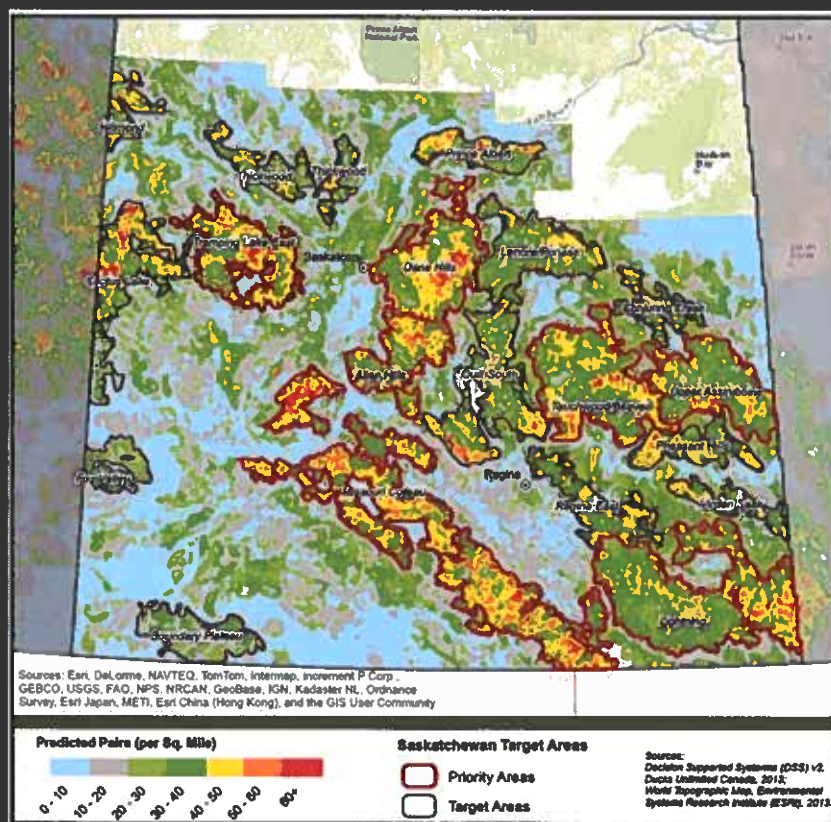
Secure Protected
Areas through
Governments

Hold and Manage
OR
Revoke to Secure more

THE SOLUTIONS

SASKATCHEWAN PRIORITY AREAS

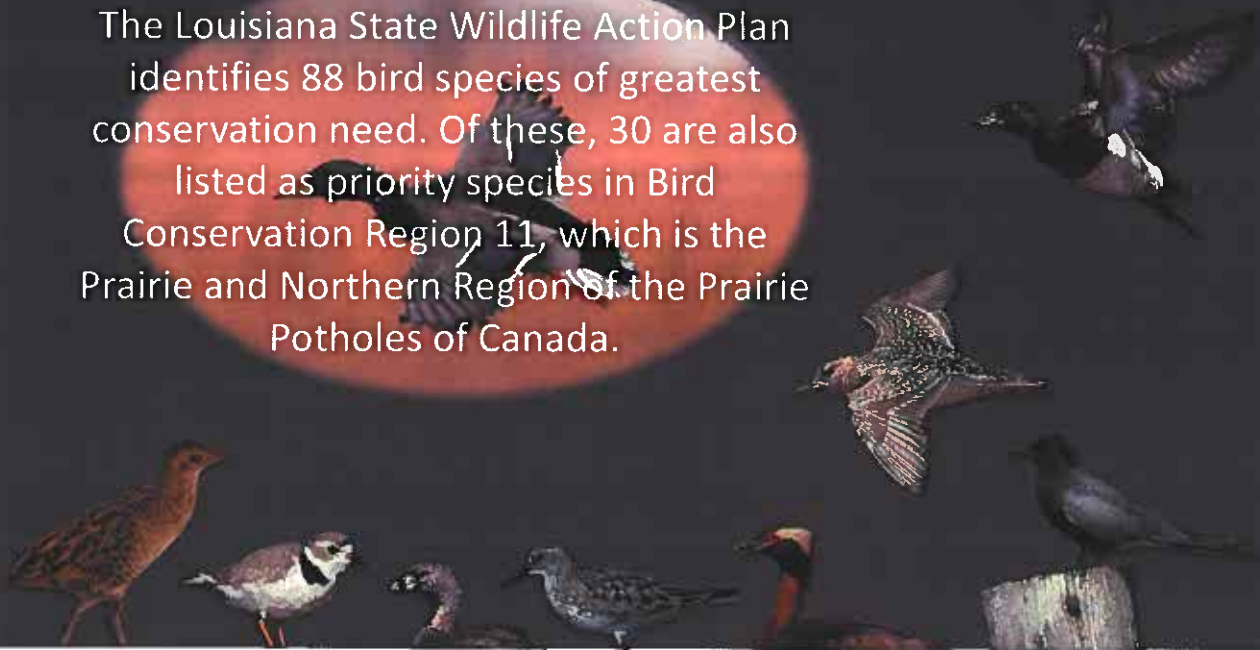
DUC's efforts in the Prairies align with the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) waterfowl target areas established to direct waterfowl-related resources towards areas with the highest need and where activities benefit the most birds.





Benefits Priority Species

The Louisiana State Wildlife Action Plan identifies 88 bird species of greatest conservation need. Of these, 30 are also listed as priority species in Bird Conservation Region 11, which is the Prairie and Northern Region of the Prairie Potholes of Canada.



The LDWF grant of \$189,203.77 toward the priority areas in the Saskatchewan prairie pothole region was matched by DU and NAWCA funds totaling \$756,815. Exchange gain of ~1.24 resulted in \$938,451 CAD expended.

Habitat Initiative	Accomplishments (acres)	Program Cost
Habitat Retention	2,138	\$694,825 (\$560,343 US)
Wetland Restoration	8	\$6,177 (\$4,981 US)
Upland Restoration	1,111	\$92,948 (\$74,958 US)
Habitat Asset Management	71,510*	\$144,501 (\$116,533 US)
Total	3,257	\$938,451 (\$756,815 US)



Ducks Unlimited Proposal for FY 19 – FY 21

Conservation Initiatives	Proposed LDWF Acres	Proposed LDWF Costs	Proposed Program Acres	Proposed Costs
<i>1. Habitat Retention</i>				
<i>a. Conservation Easements</i>	675	\$337,500	2,700	\$1,350,000
<i>b. Acquisition</i>	225	\$337,500	900	\$1,350,000
<i>c. Conservation Agreements</i>	375	\$86,250	1500	\$345,000
<i>2. Upland Restoration</i>				
<i>a. Forage</i>	575	\$52,000	2300	\$208,000
<i>b. Winter Wheat</i>	10,000	\$15,000	40,000	\$60,000
<i>3. Habitat Asset Management*</i>	43,750	\$131,750	175,000	\$527,000
Total	1,850	\$960,000	7,400	\$3,840,000



Adjusted proposed DU Acres and \$'s based on FY 19 funding

Conservation Initiatives \$756,815.08/\$3,840,000= 19.71% (0.1971)	Proposed LDWF Acres	Proposed LDWF Costs	Proposed Program Acres	Proposed Program Costs
1. Habitat Retention				
a. Conservation Easements	133	\$66,517	532	\$266,068
b. Acquisition	44	\$66,517	176	\$266,068
c. Conservation Agreements	74	\$16,999	296	\$67,996
2. Upland Restoration				
a. Forage	113	\$10,249	453	\$40,996
b. Winter Wheat	1,971	\$2,956	7,884	\$11,824
3. Habitat Asset Management	8,623	\$25,966	34,492	\$103,864
Total	364	\$189,203	1,457	\$756,816



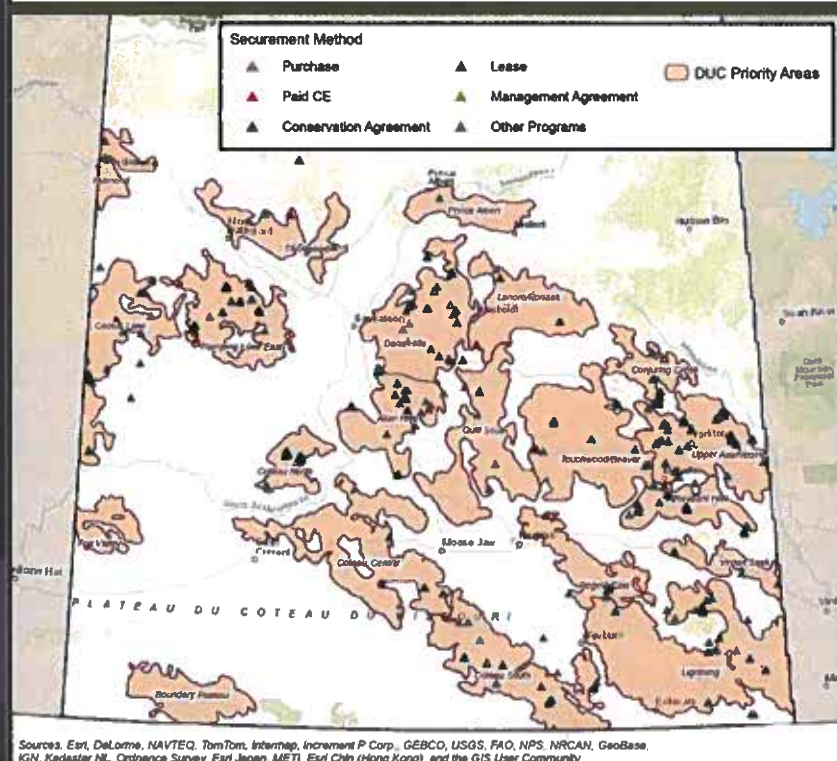


Habitat Initiative	Direct Programs ¹ (Acres)	Extension Programs ² (Acres)	FY19 Total	FY19 Cost
Habitat Retention				
Conservation Easements	587		587	\$184,120 (\$148,484 US)
Land Purchase	327		327	\$265,176 (\$213,852 US)
Revolving Land Purchase ³	137		137	\$9,128 (\$7,361 US)
Easement from RLP	118		118	\$46,100 (\$37,177 US)
Lease/Conservation Agmt	1,106	15,342	16,448	\$190,301 (\$153,469 US)
Subtotal	2,138	15,342	17,480	\$894,825 (\$560,343 US)
Wetland Restoration				
Perpetual	8		8	\$6,177 (\$4,981 US)
Term				
Subtotal	8		8	\$6,177 (\$4,981 US)
Upland Restoration				
Conservation Forages	1,111		1,111	\$41,465 (\$33,439 US)
Winter Wheat		9,131	9,131	\$9,860 (\$7,952 US)
Nesting Cover Enhancement ⁴			379	\$41,623 (\$33,567 US)
Subtotal	1,111	9,131	10,242	\$92,948 (\$74,958 US)
Total Acres	3,257	24,473	27,730	
Habitat Management⁵			71,510	\$144,501 (\$116,533 US)
Total Expenditure FY19				\$938,451 (\$756,815 US)



Over 983 project segments securing over 43,763 acres

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA SEGMENTS SECURED IN FY2019 – SASKATCHEWAN



CRAWFORD 2



Allan Hills Prior




Project # _____

Crawford 2 CE NE22-29-27-W2

Schedule "A"



Habitat Area

-  1 Wetland Complex (720-200-43) 16 Basins 45.0 Acres
-  2 Perennial Tame Forage (220-20-21) 105.6 Acres
-  3 Mixed Natural Land (310-20-21) 2.2 Acres



Overview:	Crawford 2 CE
Land Parcel:	NE22-29-27-W2
Technology Used:	ISC Surface Parcels Collector for ArcGIS
Image Source:	Planet Labs Geomatics Corp.

Location:	Allan Hills
Coordinate System:	NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 13N
Scale:	1:5,326
Image Date:	20160603

THIS SKETCH PLAN HAS BEEN CREATED FROM AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION	
Date:	Drawn By:
20170419	EB
Field Reconnaissance Date:	
20170418	
Page:	Checked By:
	JN




Project # _____

Haduik 2 CE NW23-30-29-W2

Schedule "A"



Habitat Area

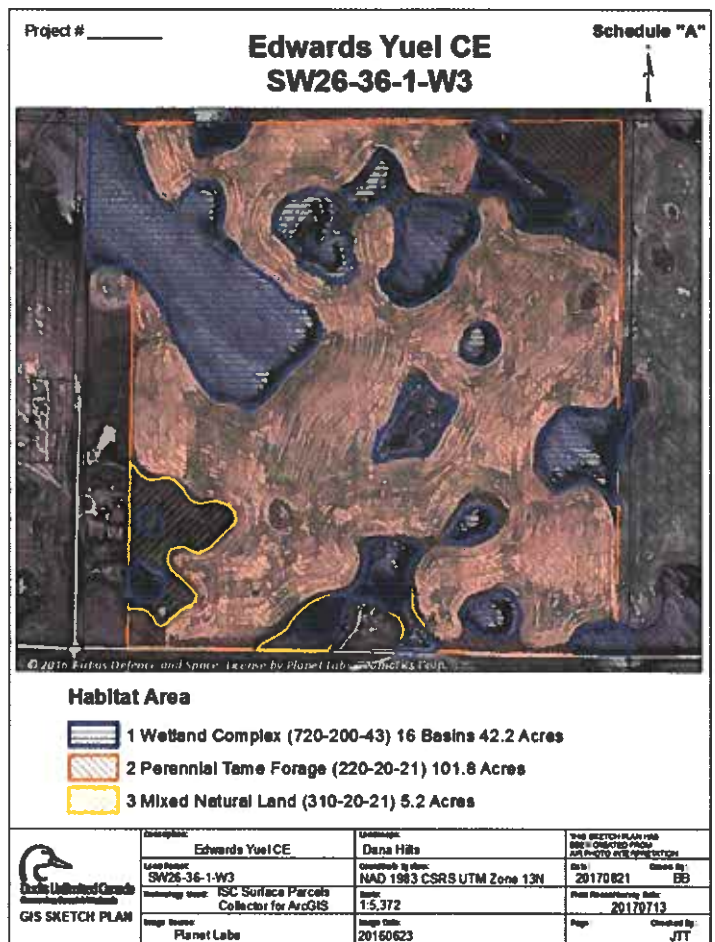
-  1 Wetland Complex (720-200-43) 18 Basins 52.8 Acres
-  2 Perennial Tame Forage (220-20-21) 94.2 Acres
-  3 Mixed Natural Land (310-20-21) 7.4 Acres



Overview:	Haduik 2 CE
Land Parcel:	NW23-30-29-W2
Technology Used:	ISC Surface Parcels Collector for ArcGIS
Image Source:	Planet Labs

Location:	Allan Hills
Coordinate System:	NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 13N
Scale:	1:5,639
Image Date:	20160623

THIS SKETCH PLAN HAS BEEN CREATED FROM AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION			
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Field Reconnaissance Date:	20180503		
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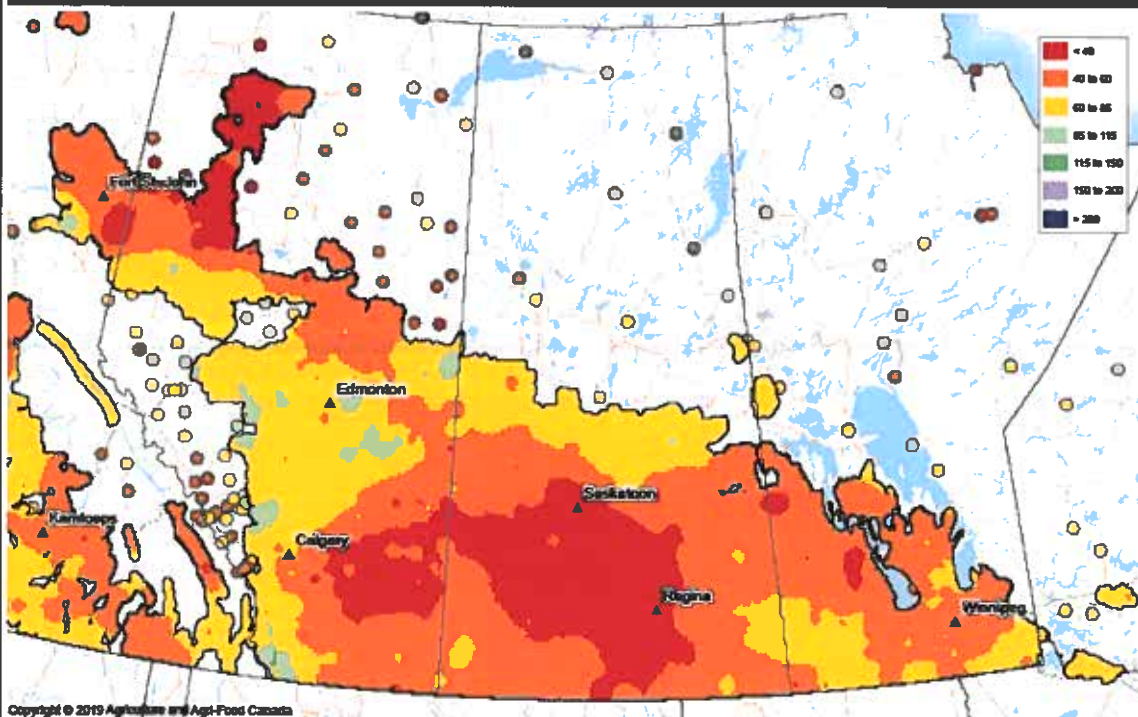
Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Percent of Average Precipitation

in past 90 days, as of June 17, 2019



Copyright © 2019 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Science and Technology Branch. Data provided through partnership with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Provincial and private agencies.
Produced using near real-time data that has undergone some quality control. The accuracy of this map varies due to data availability and potential data errors.

Created: 2019-06-18
www.agr.gc.ca/drought

**YOUR SUPPORT AND ACTION TO CONSERVE HABITAT IN
THE PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION OF CANADA MEANS
CRITICAL WATERFOWL HABITAT WILL BE PROTECTED IN
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WATERFOWL PRODUCTION
AND MIGRATION AREAS OF NORTH AMERICA.**



Ducks Unlimited
Canada



RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 1, 2019

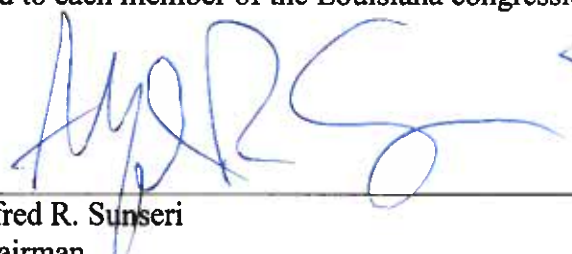
- WHEREAS, the Mississippi River has been at a historic and unprecedented flood stage during 2019; and
- WHEREAS, today marks 248 days of the 2019 flood event and previous and expected rainfall events have and are expected to raise water levels statewide causing the 2019 flood event to surpass the 1973 event (225 days) as the longest flood fight in the Louisiana history; and
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened the Bonnet Carré Spillway for 44 days from February 27 through April 11, 2019 and opened it again for a historic second time in one year on May 10, 2019 and it is currently diverting 142,000 cubic feet per second into Lake Pontchartrain; and
- WHEREAS, this flood event marks the fourth time in 5 years that the Bonnet Carré Spillway has been opened due to flood events and the first time it has opened in subsequent years and twice in the same year; and
- WHEREAS, additional heavy rainfall across the region has led to uncontrolled and unprecedented flow of freshwater into all estuaries and coastal waters of the State and may have lingering effects, leading to the decline of valuable seafood products from throughout the coast to catch, process and sell; and
- WHEREAS, biological monitoring by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Department) has indicated a notable reduction in the availability of crabs, shrimp, oysters and finfish associated with the 2019 flood event; and
- WHEREAS, the Department continues to monitor the impacts of the 2019 flood event on coastal aquatic life and the associated impacts to all sectors of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, including fishermen, docks, processors, marinas, etc.; and
- WHEREAS, invasive plants and fish species are a current problem within Louisiana; floodwaters can disperse invasive species into areas that have not previously been affected, thereby altering biological assemblages, habitat and hydrology, and limiting recreational and commercial opportunities; and
- WHEREAS, once the flood waters subside, additional impacts to freshwater fishery species may occur within the Atchafalaya Basin as well as to freshwater and estuarine areas outside of the Atchafalaya Basin, as low-oxygen water from flooded swamp areas and from dying algal blooms causes fish kills; and

WHEREAS, boating and fishing infrastructure (i.e., docks, piers, ramps, etc.) in freshwater and marine environments are impacted by floodwaters with damage ranging from sedimentation to complete destruction and future impacts from the 2019 flood event are expected, but the extent cannot be determined until water levels recede to normal conditions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby urges and requests the Department to continue its efforts to collect and analyze data regarding the impacts to fisheries in Louisiana as a result of the 2019 flood event, including analysis of fishery independent and dependent data to determine fishery disaster loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby supports the request submitted to NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce from the Louisiana Governor's Office to declare a fisheries disaster in Louisiana and to request the U.S. Congress to authorize and appropriate funds to recover fishery disaster loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department, the Governor and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.



Alfred R. Sunseri
Chairman



2019 Recreational Red Snapper Season Update

Jason Adriance | Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting | July 1, 2019

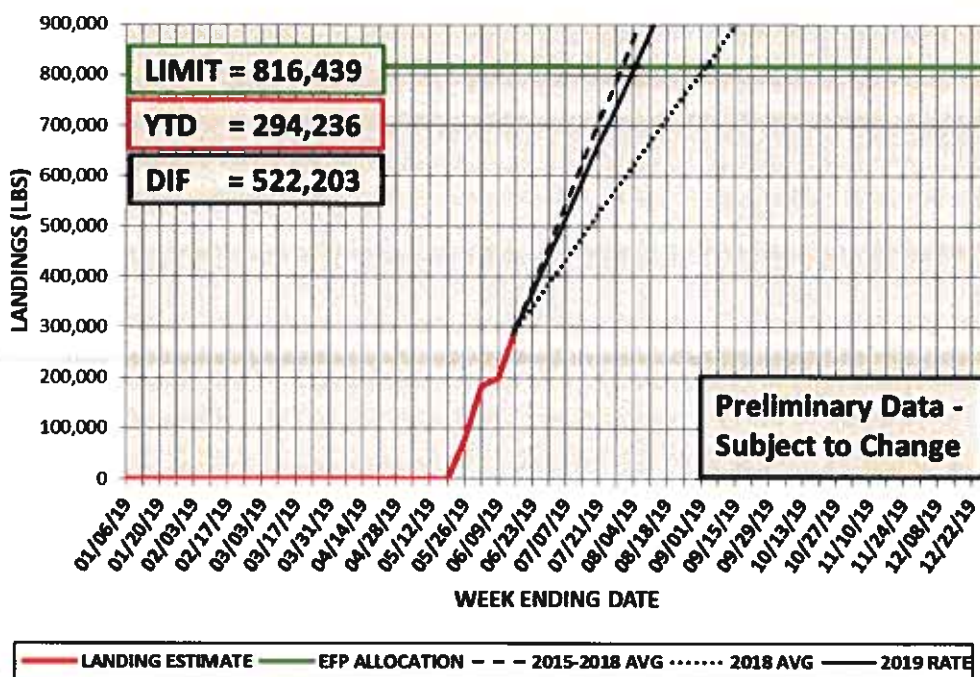
2019 Red Snapper Weekly Landing Estimates								
Week	Begin Date	End Date	Landings (lbs)					
			State Charter	Private Angler	Total	Weeks % of Allocation	Running Total	Running % of Allocation
21	5/20/2019	5/26/2019	1,067	76,974	78,041	10%	78,041	10%
22	5/27/2019	6/2/2019	3,073	102,652	105,725	13%	183,766	23%
23	6/3/2019	6/9/2019	3,854	13,307	17,161	2%	200,890	25%
24	6/10/2019	6/16/2019	4,069	91,493	95,562	12%	294,236	37%
Average Weekly Landing			3,024	70,535	73,559	9%		



Season started May 24, 2019 as a weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) season including the Monday of Memorial Day (5/27) and Thursday the Fourth of July.

There have been 19 days of Red Snapper season to date (13 Days with estimates).

LOUISIANA'S 2019 RED SNAPPER LANDING ESTIMATES (LA CREEL - PRIVATE ANGLER + STATE CHARTER)



2019 EFP Voluntary Electronic Reporting

Week	Trips Declared	Trips Fished	Trips Not Fished	Red Snapper Kept	Red Snapper Discarded
21	65	56	9	326	294
22	71	59	12	313	408
23	10	8	2	42	21
24	21	15	6	73	47
2019 Total	167	138	29	754	770
2018 Total	238	174	64	845	494



Questions?





GULF COUNCIL JUNE MEETING

Chris Schieble | Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting | July 1, 2019

Data Collection

- LDWF's Nicole Smith selected for Data Collection Advisory Panel (3-year term)
- Commercial Fishing Unique Trip Identifiers
 - Requested presentation from NOAA Fisheries outlining potential solutions relating IFQ data collected by the science center and vessel monitoring system
- For-Hire (SEFHEIR) Electronic Monitoring
 - Implementation delayed until early 2020



Carryover of Unharvested Quota

- Reviewed simulations of carryovers and impacts on stock rebuilding plans
- Directed to add a payback provision to address carryover for stocks in rebuilding plans
- Noted that benefits of carryover are limited and this amendment is complex
- Postponed further discussion until NOAA Fisheries conducts interim analysis procedures—would provide timely evaluation of stock health to generate updated catch advice and allow for regular adjustments to annual catch limits (ACL)

Two-Day Possession Limit on Federal For-Hire Trips

- Consideration to allow the harvest of two daily bag limits at any time during a multi-day federal for-hire trip for reef fish and mackerel
- Current regulations:
 - can retain two daily bag limits if trip lasts longer than 24 hours
 - two licensed captains are on board
 - all anglers have receipt showing duration of trip (second daily bag limit can't be retained until after 24 hours have passed)



Two-Day Possession Limit on Federal For-Hire Trips

- Some captains want to catch the two-day limit in the first 24 hours to reduce discards
- No enforcement issues, potential for fairness issues
- May require coordination with the South Atlantic Council for shared species such as cobia or mackerel



Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Modifying Commercial IFQ Programs

- To assist small participants and new entrants to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs, reduce discards, and increase access to shares to actively fishing, eligible commercial fishermen



Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Modifying Commercial IFQ Programs

- *To assist small participants and new entrants to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs, reduce discards, and increase access to shares to actively fishing, eligible commercial fishermen*
- **Removed an alternative that would allow a shareholder to hold small amount of shares without a permit; instead considering requiring all shareholders to have a permit**



Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Modifying Commercial IFQ Programs

- *To assist small participants and new entrants to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs, reduce discards, and increase access to shares to actively fishing, eligible commercial fishermen*
- *Removed an alternative that would allow a shareholder to hold small amount of shares without a permit; instead considering requiring all shareholders to have a permit*
- **Added alternative for the quota bank that would distribute shares to small shareholders whose shares represent 500 pounds allocation or less of each share category**



Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Modifying Commercial IFQ Programs

- *To assist small participants and new entrants to Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs, reduce discards, and increase access to shares to actively fishing, eligible commercial fishermen*
- *Removed an alternative that would allow a shareholder to hold small amount of shares without a permit; instead considering requiring all shareholders to have a permit*
- *Added alternative for the quota bank that would distribute shares to small shareholders whose shares represent 500 pounds allocation or less of each share category*
- **Modified alternatives regarding accuracy of estimated weights in advance landing notifications to provide law enforcement with the tool to address inaccurate estimated weights, without unduly penalizing commercial fishermen**



Greater Amberjack Commercial Trip Limits

- **Final action to reduce the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack to 1,000 pounds gutted weight**
- **When 75% of the annual catch target (ACT) is met, the trip limit will be reduced to 250 pounds**
- **Public comment from Venice fishermen helped keep a higher trip limit to allow for directed greater amberjack trips**
- **Proposed regulation change will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation**



Recreational Greater Amberjack

- Start of fishing year recently changed from January 1 to August 1
- Season runs from August to October and remaining quota is used for a May season
- Concern regarding lack of May 2019 season as entire quota was harvested in the August-October 2018 season
- Directed staff to develop document that prioritizes both August-October and May seasons, including options that consider changing the fishing year, fractional bag limits, and modifying current season structure



Red Snapper For-Hire Annual Catch Target Buffer

- Allow greater harvest while continuing to constrain landings to the federal for-hire component ACL
- Selected a preferred alternative to set the buffer to 9% below the federal for-hire component ACL (same as 2019)
- Council will solicit public comments before August 2019 meeting
- Final action at August 2019 meeting



Amendment 51: Gray Snapper Status Determination Criteria, Reference Points, ACLs

- Selected preferred alternatives that would set:
 - An MSY at 26% spawning potential ratio (SPR)
 - A maximum fishing mortality threshold of 26% SPR
- Selected preferred alternative to apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to establish an 11% buffer between the two for 2019-2021

Year	OFL (mp ww)	ABC (mp ww)	ACL (mp ww)
2019	2.59	2.52	2.24
2020	2.58	2.51	2.24
2021+	2.57	2.51	2.23

- Council will hold a public meeting via webinar / final action at August 2019 meeting

Commercial Crew Size Requirements

- Dual-permitted vessels have both a commercial and a charter/headboat permit for reef fish
- Maximum crew size on dual-permitted vessels is currently four
- Restriction impedes dual-permitted vessels from being used for “catch share experience trips”



Commercial Minimum Size Limit for Almaco Jack

- South Atlantic Council established commercial minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length for Almaco Jack; Florida is establishing a consistent size limit for state waters on the east coast
- Gulf fishermen have asked Florida for a similar minimum size limit to be established in the Gulf
- Council requested science advisors to consider a minimum size limit for Almaco Jack



Shrimp Bycatch Exempted Fishing Permit

- Council recommended that NOAA Fisheries approve an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application that would allow for a new bycatch reduction device to be tested in the shrimp fishery



Reminders:

- Scientific & Statistical Committee Meeting (SSC) in Tampa on July 30-31, 2019, 8:30 am-4:00 pm EST (webinar available)
- Gulf Council Meeting in New Orleans August 12-15, 2019, 8:30 am-4:00 pm CDT at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter
- (webinar available)

Questions?





2019 Derelict Crab Trap Results and the 2020 Proposed Cleanup Areas

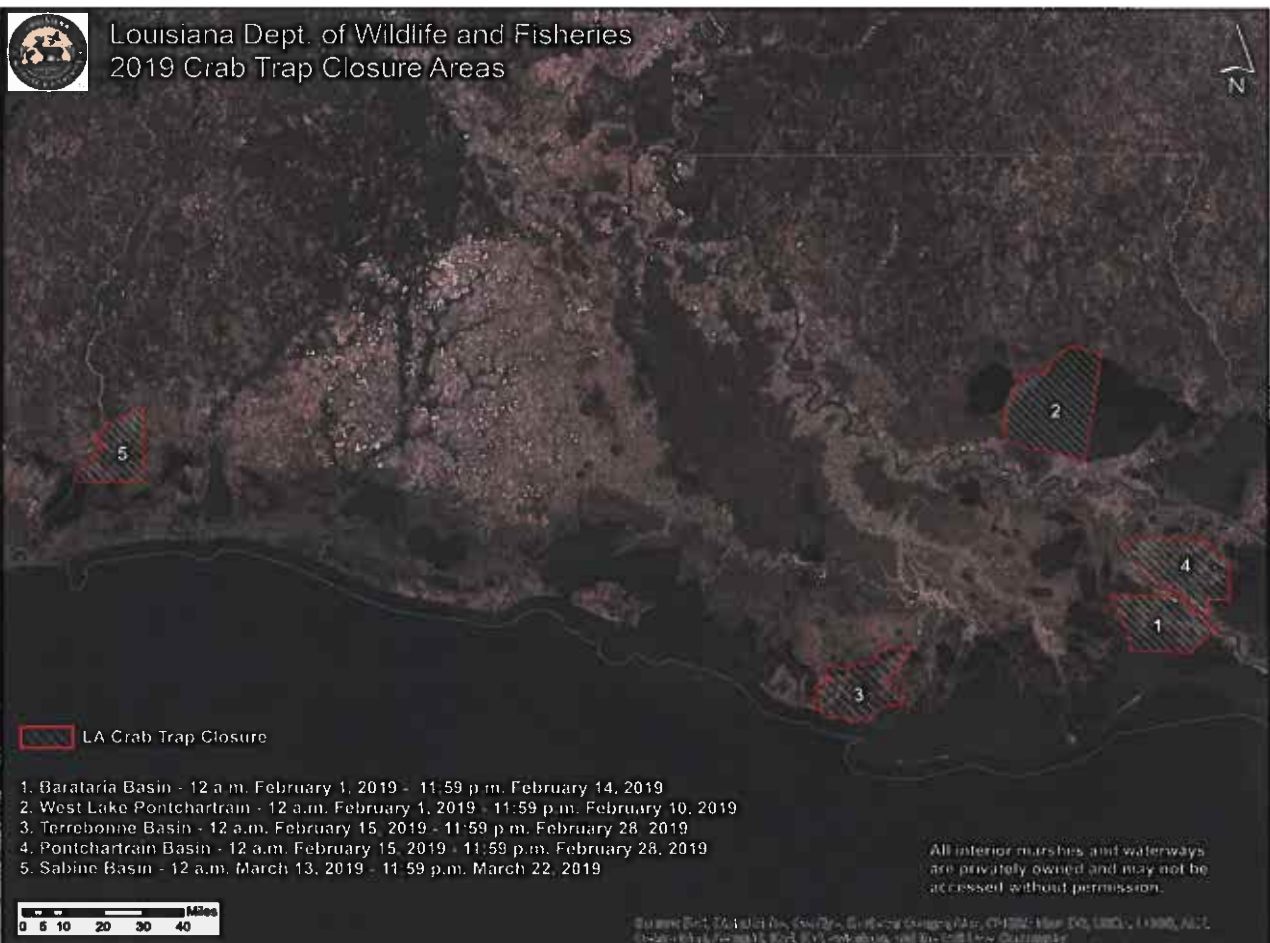
Peyton Cagle | LWFC Meeting | July 1, 2019

2019 DCTR Results





Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries 2019 Crab Trap Closure Areas



Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Results

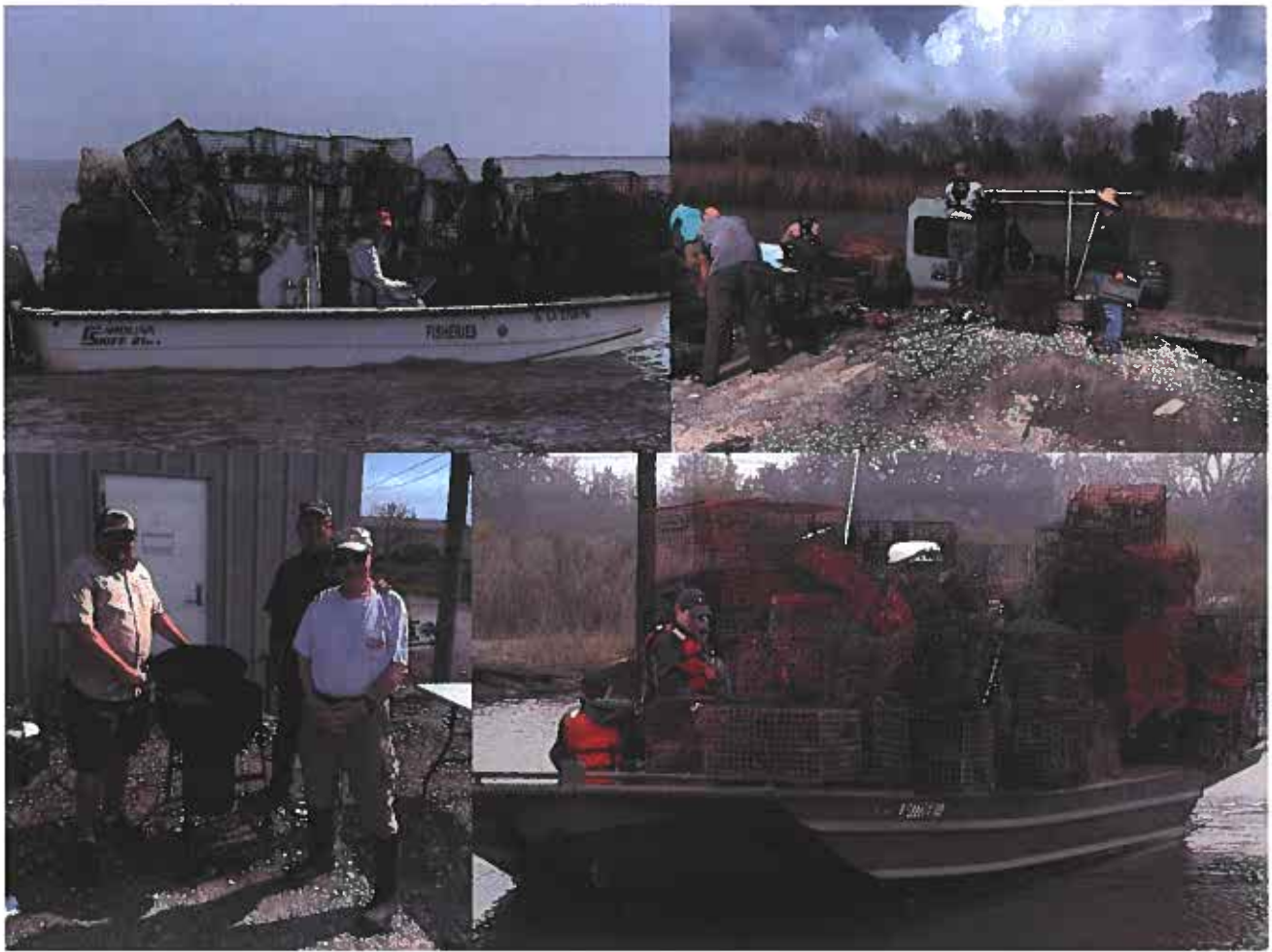
2019	Plaquemines/Jefferson Parishes	2/1-2/14	218
	Western Pontchartrain Lake	2/1-2/14	636
	Terrebonne Parish	2/15-2/28	521
	Plaquemines Parish	2/15-2/28	2,502
	Cameron/Calcasieu Parishes	3/13-3/22	164
	Total		4,041



Program Results

Year	Area(s)	Avg. Traps
2004-2005	6	5,758
2006-2016	16	1,441
2017-2019	16	4,592
Total	38	41,142





2020 Proposed Cleanup Areas



Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Legislation (LA R.S. 56:332)

Commission to designate:

- **Area of trap closure**
- **Who will collect traps**
- **Disposal sites**
- **Dates of trap closure**
- **Disposition of traps**

Authorized Dates:

- **Winter – up to 16 days between Feb 1 – Mar 31**
- **Spring – up to 14 days in conjunction with inshore shrimp season opening**
- **At any time crab harvest is closed for biological or technical reasons, the Commission may prohibit crab traps**

Pontchartrain Basin

February 3, 2020 – February 16, 2020



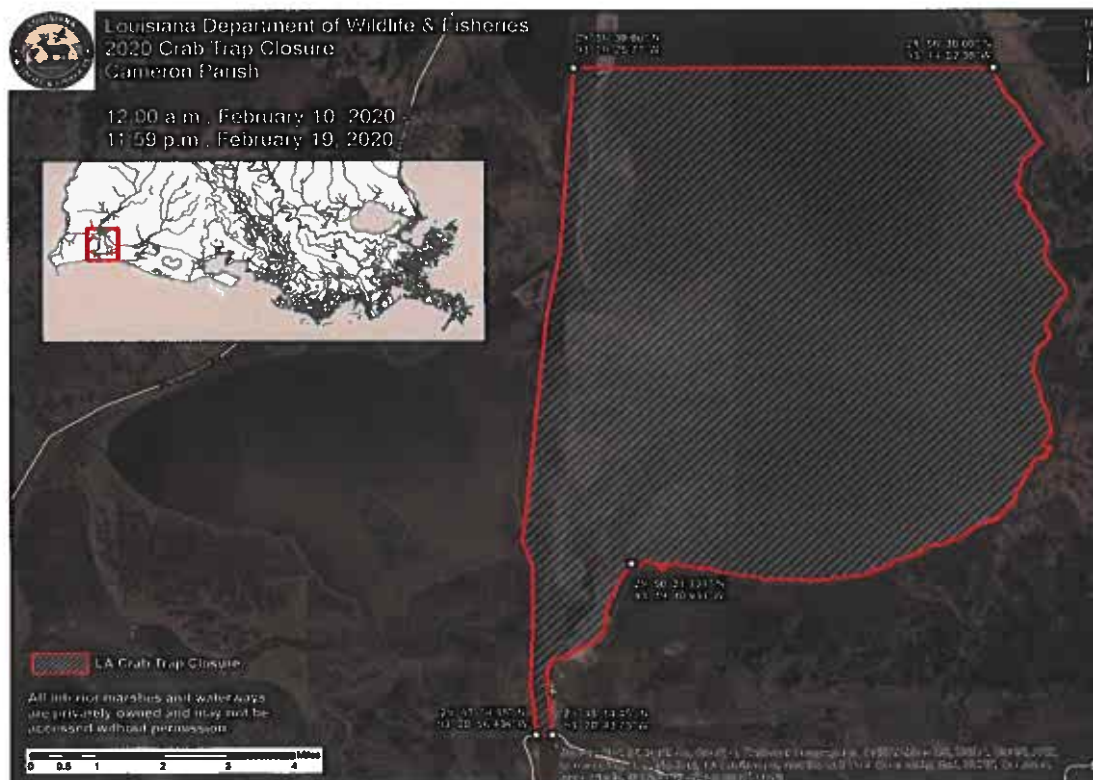
Barataria Basin

February 3, 2020 – February 16, 2020



Calcasieu Basin

February 10, 2020 – February 19, 2020



Vermilion Basin

February 10, 2020 – February 23, 2020



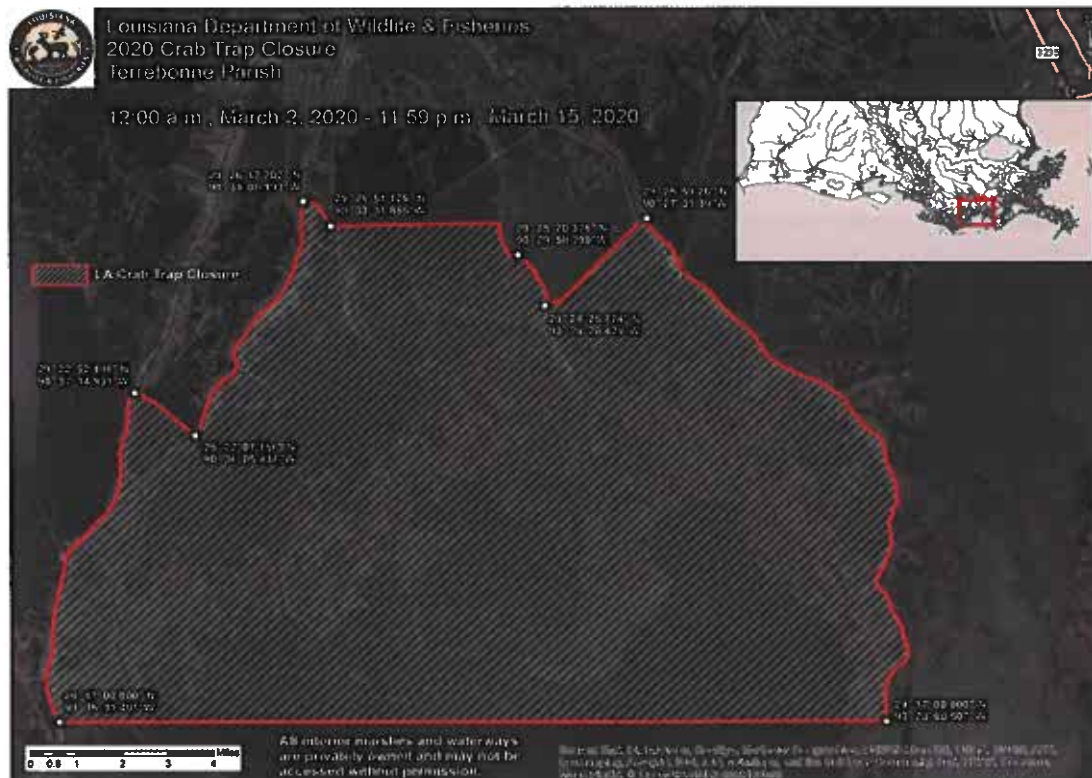
Pontchartrain Basin

March 2, 2020 – March 15, 2020



Terrebonne Basin

March 2, 2020 – March 15, 2020



Things To Remember

- Remaining traps are considered abandoned
- LDWF or those designated may retrieve traps
- Traps may be removed between ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset
- Traps must be brought to designated disposal sites
- Traps removed from within a closure area cannot be possessed outside of that area

QUESTIONS?

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